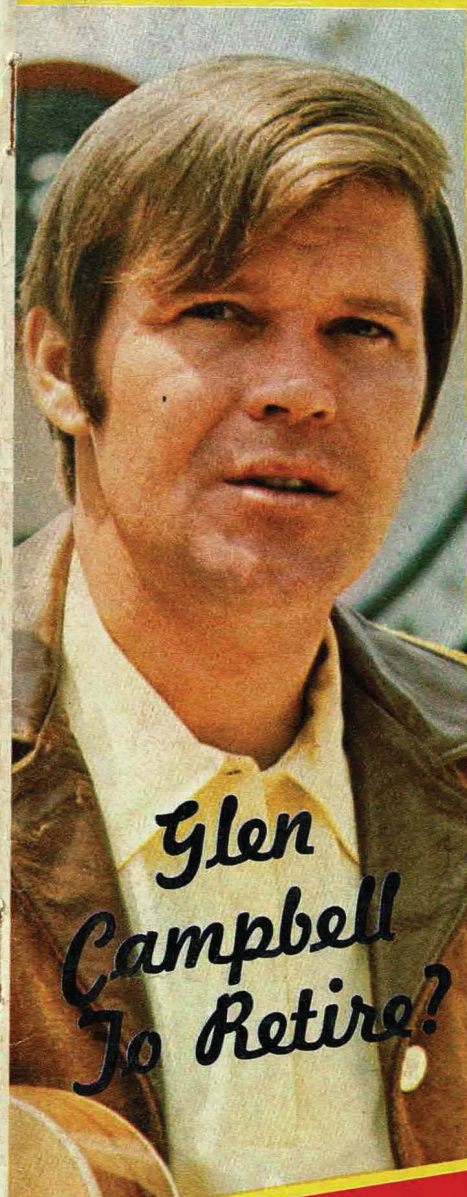


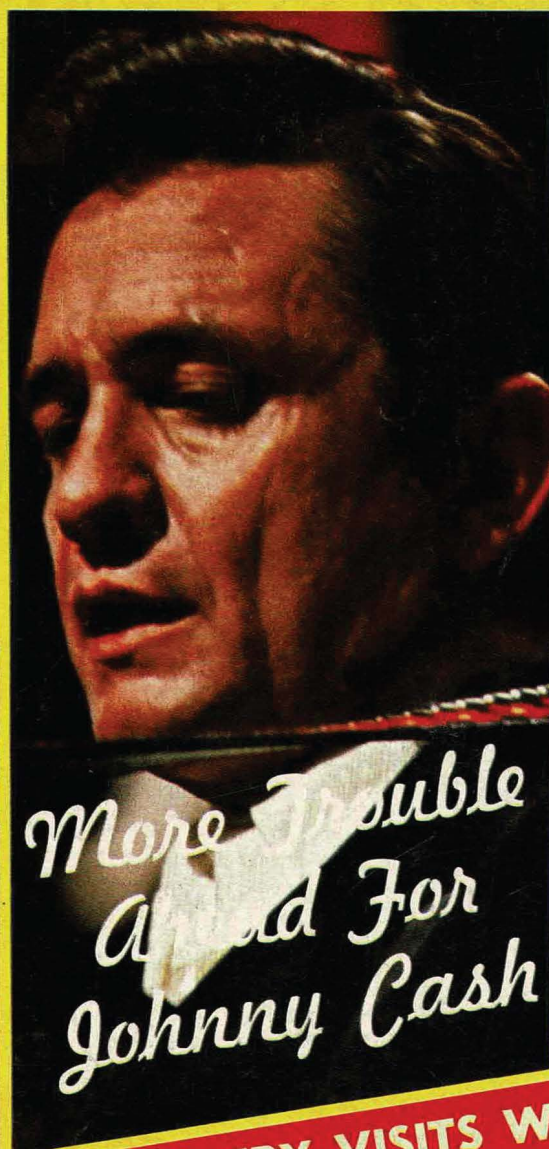
COUNTRY-WESTERN STARS

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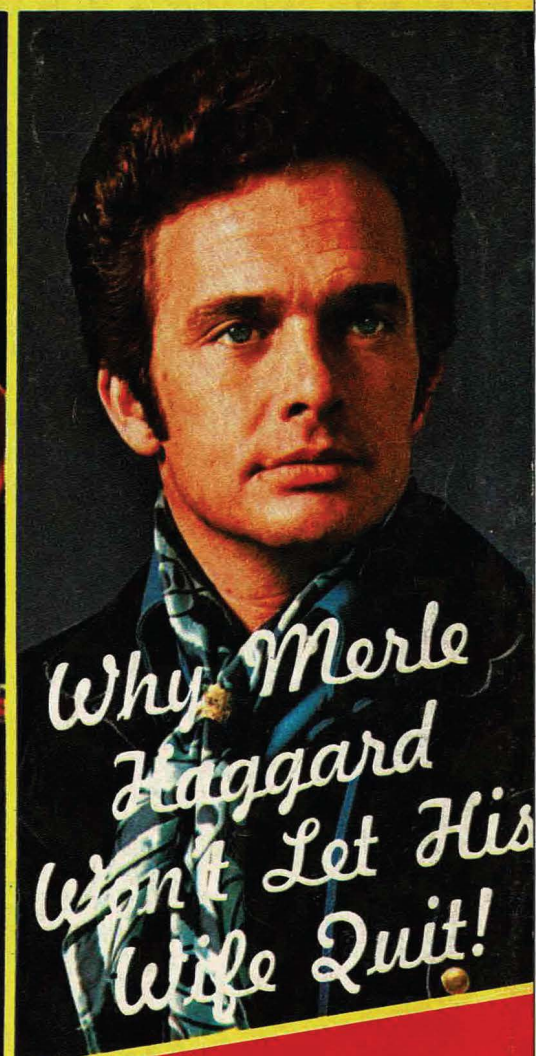
JULY 1971 60¢



*Glen
Campbell
To Retire?*



*More Trouble
Ahead For
Johnny Cash*



*Why Merle
Haggard
Won't Let His
Wife Quit!*

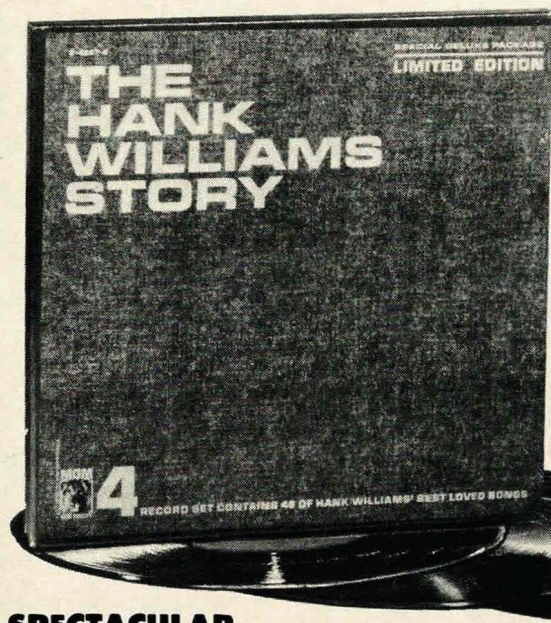
COUNTRY VISITS WITH
Tammy Wynette • Chet Atkins • Sonny James • Bobbie Gentry
Del Reeves • Peggy Little • Buck Owens • Roy Clark

BONUS:

YOUR OWN COUNTRY-WESTERN CATALOGUE

Here he is...The Immortal King of Country Music!

HANK WILLIAMS



LIMITED EDITION
... ORIGINAL
HANK WILLIAMS
RECORDINGS!

This Special
Deluxe Limited
Edition
Not Available
In Stores!



**SPECTACULAR
MEMORIAL ALBUM OFFER** through
special arrangement with MGM Merchandising Corp.

48 All-Time Sensational Hits on 4 Deluxe 12-Inch LP Records

**ENJOY THEM FOR
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Hank Williams died in 1953; he was only 30 years old. He had not even reached the peak of his career, yet he was recognized as "the king of country and western music." His death was a tragedy. It meant that America had lost one of its greatest artists, for Hank Williams had brought joy and pleasure to millions... had truly interpreted "country and western music" so greatly that his influence is evident in many country and western artists popular today.

In memory of this unsurpassed artist, here is a wonderful Memorial Album, produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, for whom Hank Williams recorded exclusively. Hear Hank Williams sing—as only he could—such haunting hits as *Cold, Cold Heart*... *Your Cheatin' Heart*... *Move It On Over*... *Hey, Good Lookin'*... *Jambalaya*... *Honky Tonkin*... *Howlin' At The Moon*... *Lonesome Whistle*... *You're Gonna Change (Or I'm Gonna Leave)*... *A House Without Love*... and dozens more!

Truly a fitting memorial to Hank Williams are these four 12-inch LP records containing 48 hits! Faithfully reproducing every note and nuance of his homey, haunting delivery, these

Then, if you choose to keep them, they're yours for only \$5

a Month

until you've paid a total of only \$12.95 plus postage and handling charge!

records will thrill and delight you as only Hank Williams' voice and music can.

And best of all, you can hear these records in your own home for 10 days FREE! You can sit in the comfort of your own living room while you listen to the hit songs previously mentioned... plus *I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry*... *There'll Be No Teardrops Tonight*... *Rootie Tootie*... *Lovesick Blues*... and still more—most of which were Hank's own compositions.

Yes, play these fabulous records in your own home over and over, to your heart's content! Then, if for any reason you decide you don't want to keep them, return them in 10 days and owe nothing. Or if you decide to keep them (as we're quite sure you will), you need send only \$5 a month until the total price of \$12.95 plus postage and handling is paid.

So act promptly. **SEND NO MONEY**... but do mail the coupon today... so we can rush this wonderful, heart-warming 4-Record Memorial Album to you for your enjoyment... and 10 days FREE trial!



MAIL COUPON AT ONCE &
GET HANDSOME PHOTO
OF HANK WILLIAMS
(suitable for framing)

as an **EXTRA
BONUS!**

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Blaine/Worthington Enterprises, Inc. Dept. AD
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Please rush me the deluxe 4-record Hank Williams Memorial Album. If I am not completely satisfied for any reason whatever, I may return the album within 10 days and owe absolutely nothing. If I decide to keep it, it's mine for only \$5 a month until the total price of \$12.95 plus postage and handling charge has been paid. And please include as an extra FREE bonus the handsome photograph of Hank Williams, suitable for framing.

☐ CHECK HERE IF YOU PREFER TO PAY THE FULL AMOUNT NOW and avoid monthly billing. Enclose check or money order for \$12.95, and we'll send you just one statement for the small postage and handling charge, and any applicable sales tax. Same 10-day return privilege with full refund guaranteed.

☐ Mr.
☐ Mrs..
☐ Miss
(PLEASE PRINT) FIRST NAME INITIAL LAST NAME

Address.....

City.....

State..... Zip Code.....

Have you a telephone?
(Please check :) ☐ Yes ☐ No

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So when I came across a LaSalle advertisement telling about the exciting career opportunities in Stenotype, I did something about it.

Stenotype, you know, is the modern *machine* shorthand—the world's fastest. You don't write it—you *type* it—in plain English letters, often whole words in one stroke! It's the shorthand that's wanted in law offices and government departments, at press conferences and conventions, at the highest executive levels of business—wherever ordinary written shorthand is too slow.

I decided that LaSalle's home

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Occasionally I'm sent to cover big conventions—in some very interesting places. (I love to travel—it's great fun.)

The pay is beautiful. And I think I've met more people in a year than I ever expected to meet in a lifetime.

Interested?

The above story is intended to illustrate the attractions of a career as a Stenotypist. To find out more, send for LaSalle's FREE booklet on Stenotype—the modern machine shorthand. Even if you've never taken shorthand before, you can learn Stenotype at home in your spare time. Mail the coupon now. You could be the most wanted girl in town! LaSalle, 417 S. Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

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Mrs. _____ Age _____
Miss _____
(Circle title and please print)

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No. _____

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State _____ Zip _____

01E

☐ If under 18, check here for special booklet.

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7 FEET TALL / IN AUTHENTIC COLORS

GLOW in the DARK EYES

\$1.00

ONLY

Imagine your friends shock when they see the "MONSTER" reaching out—sinister as the wildest nightmare. Bigger than life—Frankenstein—the man-made monster that terrorized the world. 7 feet tall, with eyes that glow eerily in the dark for a special thrilling chill. So lifelike in authentic colors, that you'll probably find yourself talking to him. Won't you be surprised if he answers!

There is also his perfect companion—BONEY the SKELETON—stark and scary—just a wonderful pair to set your hair on end.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Just send \$1.00 plus 25c to cover postage and handling for each monster you want. ORDER TWO AND SAVE. (The same 25c for postage and handling applies to orders for TWO MONSTERS—a total of 2 for \$2.25.) Your money back if not satisfactorily horrified.

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LYNBROOK, N. Y.
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COUNTRY-WESTERN STARS

JULY 1971

VOLUME 1

NUMBER 10

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***Here's your chance to share your thoughts
with us. Just send them on to Editor,
Country-Western Stars, 222 Park Ave. South,
New York, New York, 10003***

Dear Editor:

Your magazine of country-western music is excellent. My wife and I like it very much. We are both from the South and enjoy this type of music even though there are many who aren't from the South and also appreciate it. I was raised around the coal mining districts and understand the hardships and problems some have put into songs for the world to hear—such as Loretta Lynn's "Coal Miner's Daughter." Keep up the good work. We look forward to each issue.

Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Ward
Ohio

Dear Editor:

I sure enjoy reading your magazine, and would like to see more articles on Jerry Lee Lewis. He is my very favorite country star. I have lots of other favorites too. I liked your story on Tom Jones. He's a great star too.

Alice R. Betz
Ypsilante, Mich.

Dear Editor:

I am a member of the "Glen Campbell Fan Club" and I'm speaking for the club: keep putting stories about him in your magazine. We can only trust your magazine—the others are trash! Not yours. It's great!

Mary Theresa Raguso

Dear Editor:

People here in our area would like to see more of Jeannie C. Riley featured in your magazine.

Elmo Kirby, Jr.
Little Rock, Ark.

Dear Elmo:

Congratulations to whatever Jeannie C. Riley organization you and twenty-three others (who wrote us here at Country-Western Stars) belong to. No kidding! It's impressive to receive twenty-four postcards within a week or so, all requesting more of Jeannie C. Riley. Naturally we're fans of her's too, so you won't be disappointed!

Dear Editor:

I am a constant listener of country-western music and think that you have the greatest magazine in circulation. I'm just sorry I didn't get to see your first issues.

I've looked all through my last issue of your magazine and found no ad for ordering the magazine on a yearly basis.

Wanda Lang
Santa Paula, California

Dear Wanda:

Please see below for your subscription form.

COUNTRY-WESTERN STARS
Country Wide Publications, Inc.
222 Park Avenue South
New York, N. Y. 10003

I would like a subscription to COUNTRY-WESTERN STARS for one year. Enclosed please find payment of \$3.00 (check or money order).

NAME

ADDRESS

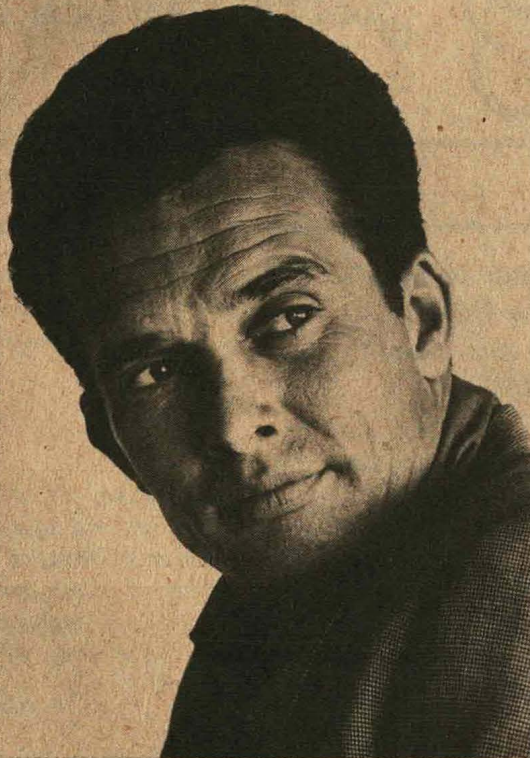
CITY & STATE ZIP

Country-Western Today

INCLUDING RESULTS OF OUR RECENT READERS' POLL

READERS' POLL

- (1) Merle Haggard
- (2) Charlie Pride
- (3) Johnny Cash
- (4) Buck Owens
- (5) Glen Campbell and
Hank William's Jr. (tie)
- (6) Marty Robbins
- (7) Tammy Wynette
- (8) Roy Clark and
Waylon Jennings (tie)
- (9) Susan Raye and
Bonnie Owens (tie)
- (10) Faron Young
- (11) Jerry Lee Lewis
- (12) Ferlin Husky &
Jeannie C. Riley (tie)
- (13) Bobbie Gentry
- (14) The Hagers
- (15) Skeeter Davis and
Hank Snow (tie)
- (16) Kitty Wells
- (17) Chet Atkins and
Minnie Pearl (tie)
- (18) Joe South
- (19) Doug Kershaw
- (20) Roger Miller



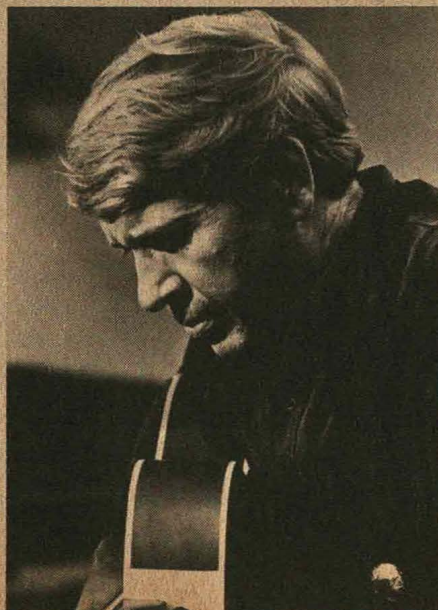
Merle Haggard



Charlie Pride



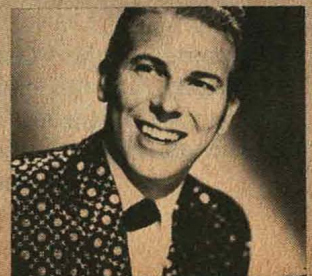
Johnny Cash



Buck Owens



Glen Campbell and
Hank William's Jr. (tie)



■ Hello country music fans!

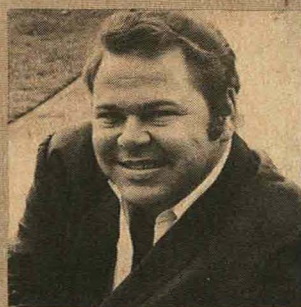
To begin with, this issue we're offering you the results of your first Reader's Poll (which appeared in CWS January 1971 issue). We are presently tabulating the second poll, which appeared in our March issue, and will let you know these results within the next few months. So for right now, here are the top twenty men and women in country music today—according to whom? According to you, the readers of Country-Western Stars. •



Marty Robbins



Tammy Wynette



Roy Clark



Waylon Jennings



Susan Raye



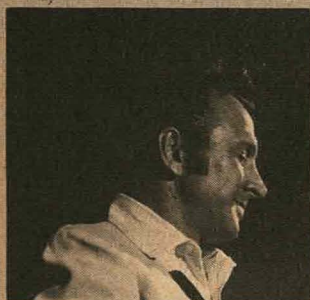
Bonnie Owens



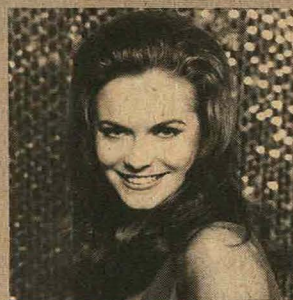
Faron Young



Jerry Lee Lewis



Ferlin Husky



Jeannie C. Riley



Bobbie Gentry



The Hagers



Skeeter Davis



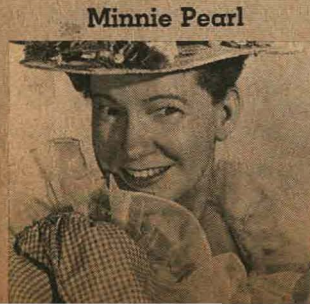
Hank Snow



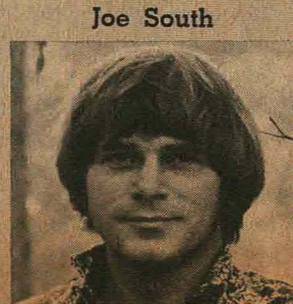
Kitty Wells



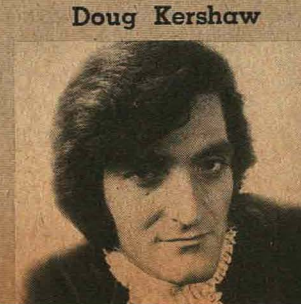
Chet Atkins



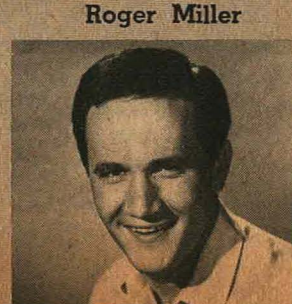
Minnie Pearl



Joe South



Doug Kershaw



Roger Miller



CJGX radio's remote studios for on location broadcasting for the first three days of country music month promotion.



Apex recording artist Bob Smith talks with Ron Waddell while appearing in Yorktown during country music month.



Ron Waddell with Columbia recording artists Tony White.

COUNTRY CHATTER



Heard in the background of more hit records than any other similar group in the industry, The Anita Kerr Singers are an intrinsic part of Nashville's sound.



Ron Waddell (2nd from left) with Cec, James, and Billy of RCA's Blackwood Brothers who performed a one nighter during country music month in Yorkton.

■ Nashville—Writer Carl Montgomery, has signed with Aguila Music, a division of Famous Music Corp. and has penned a personal management contract with Bobby Boyd. Montgomery, a native of Alabama, wrote Dave Dudley's hit of "Six Day on the Road"—other Aguila writers are Dale Ward and George Riddle.

Dot lark Diana Trask recently completed a new LP in Muscle Shoals, Ala., under the producing auspices of Buddy Killen . . . we found you out, Diana!

Mega artist Brain Collins is set to perform for the annual rendering of the Port St. Lucie Amateur

Invitation Golf Championship, slated for Jan. 25-27 at Port St. Lucie Country Club, Fla. . . in addition to Collins, Danny Davis and the Nashville Brass—Bobby Goldsboro, Grady Prophet, Boyce Hawkins, Martha Carson, Bob Moore, Bill Walker, Grady Martin and Bobby Lord are scheduled to perform for the 600 anticipated guests—which includes more than 250 men and women entered in the tourney competition. Collins' initial release on the Mega label hit the airwaves Nov. 3 and is entitled "Your Kind of Man."

Wow! In Sonny James' new LP, "#1", he sings the top ten coun-

try hits of all time. A few of the selections are "Young Love", "Any Time", "King of the Road" and others.

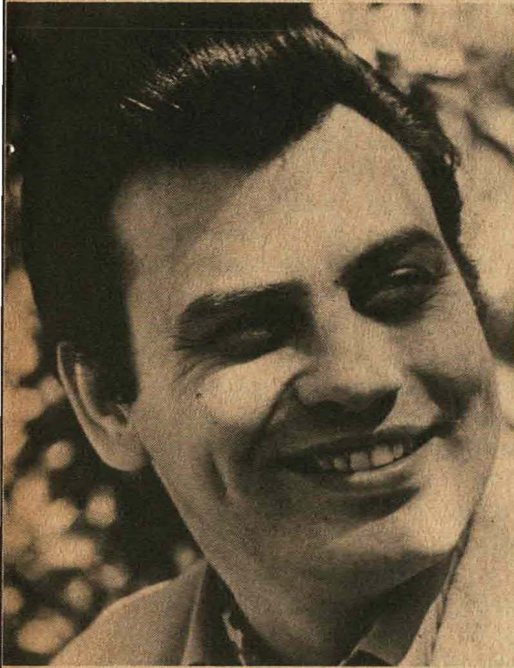
Capitol artist Ferlin Husky' new single, "Sweet Misery", produced by Larry Butler and written by Jan Crutchfield and Wayne Walker for Cedarwood Publishing Co., is so strong it was pulled from his new LP—"Your Sweet Love"—and released as a singled.

Another great single "Money Can't Buy Love". At the recent DeeJay Convention in Nashville, Roy Rogers expressed his sincere gratitude to the deejays for spinning the tune written by

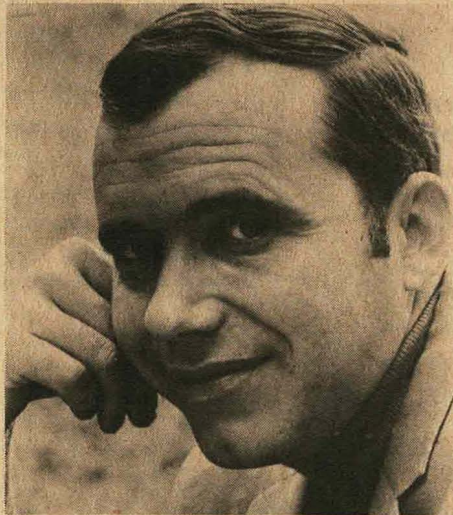
If you haven't already—here's a voice to get into—the voice of Cal Smith.



One OMAC artist that Buck & gang are mighty proud of is Ira Allen. Why not?



Though some would deny it, Bobby Bare is a great favorite among country fans and nothing pleases him more. He could have a pop career.



her album of the same title. Miss Lance has been actively performing country music for some seven years, and her latest single is entitled, "My Guy". The vivacious Lynda recently made her first appearance on the CBS network TV show "Hee-Haw", and is currently on a personal appearance tour in North Dakota.

Lorene Mann has been released from a Nashville hospital, following recent surgery. Lorene is reported recovering very well and is expected to be back in action again in a couple of weeks.

Tommy Cash was in Nashville briefly for the taping of brother John's ABC network TV'er. The taping of the "Johnny Cash Show" was a closed session, as it featured the first appearance of Johnny Carter Cash. While on tour, Tommy also taped appearances on the Hugh X. Lewis Country Club.

Ray Griff and David Rogers are set for upcoming week-long personal appearances in Toronto, Canada. For the Canadian born Griff, it marks the first return trip to Canada in three years.

The Billy Walker Road Show headed for Santa Fe last week on a week-long tour with Tennessee Jim Leake. Included in the tour was an appearance at the Santa Fe State Prison, where Walker and group played for inmates and staff.

Cedarwood writer, Betty Craig.

Artist-agent Buddy Lee announced the recent signing of The Sons of The Pioneers to an exclusive management booking contract. Perhaps the best known of all country-western vocal groups, The Sons of The Pioneers have recorded on RCA records for many years, and are credited with such memorable master-works as "Tumbling Tumbleweeds", "Cool Water" and scores of others. Included in their impressive list of credits are some twenty years of association with actor-singer Roy Rogers. While working with Rogers, The Sons of The Pioneers appeared in

countless western movies, rodeos and stage shows. Members of the group include, Lloyd Perryman, Dale Warren, Billy Armstrong, Roy Lamham and Luther Nallie. The group members all make their homes in southern California.

And speaking of Buddy Lee, popular Royal American artist, Lynda K. Lance signed an exclusive management-booking contract this week with the artist agent. The attractive young Pennsylvania native has been recording for five years. Her most recent hits include, "The World I Used to Know", "Ain't Had No Lovin'", and "A Woman's Side of Love"—the latter, a single from

GLEN CAMPBELL

Has success caught up to country-pop music's adored hero at last?

"Dear Glen,

■ We want to take this opportunity to thank you for the two gold albums and the one gold single hanging on our wall. Without the great success you made of "Galveston," "Where's the Playground Susie," "Honey Come Back", and of course your fantastic "Didn't We" on the "Live" album, Ja-Ma Music would not have received two ASCAP awards last year and been listed by Billboard as one of the top music publishers of the world. What can you give a guy who has everything, except a sincere: Thank You Glen.

We're sure you would not want us to close this letter without also thanking Jimmy Webb for his great songs and Al Delory for his incomparable arrangements and production.

We Love you."

—Jackson and Madelon Baker (Audio Arts, Inc.)

"My Boy . . . By Boy . . . You are unreal!"

—Yo ole Buddy, Jerry Reed

"Glen,

You and I go back a long way,
and since those early session days,
you've come a long way.

I believe that more than any other single

person, you have been responsible for making country music universally accepted, and that's an accomplishment to be proud of."

—Your Friend,

Buck Owens

These are just a few of the letters that Glen has been receiving every day from friends, and people in the business. In the past few years Glen has climbed to stardom at such an incredible rate that he himself can hardly believe the important and respected man he is today. Still terribly stage struck and nervous in front of people, Glen's simple country heart shines through. He doesn't like fast night life, and deplores the phoniness of Hollywood and other "hot spots." Glen likes golf, swimming, playing with the kids just as often as he gets a chance, and tending to his business matters. He is a firm believer in handling money matters by himself. "Don't leave what you can do yourself, for someone else to do," is his favorite motto.

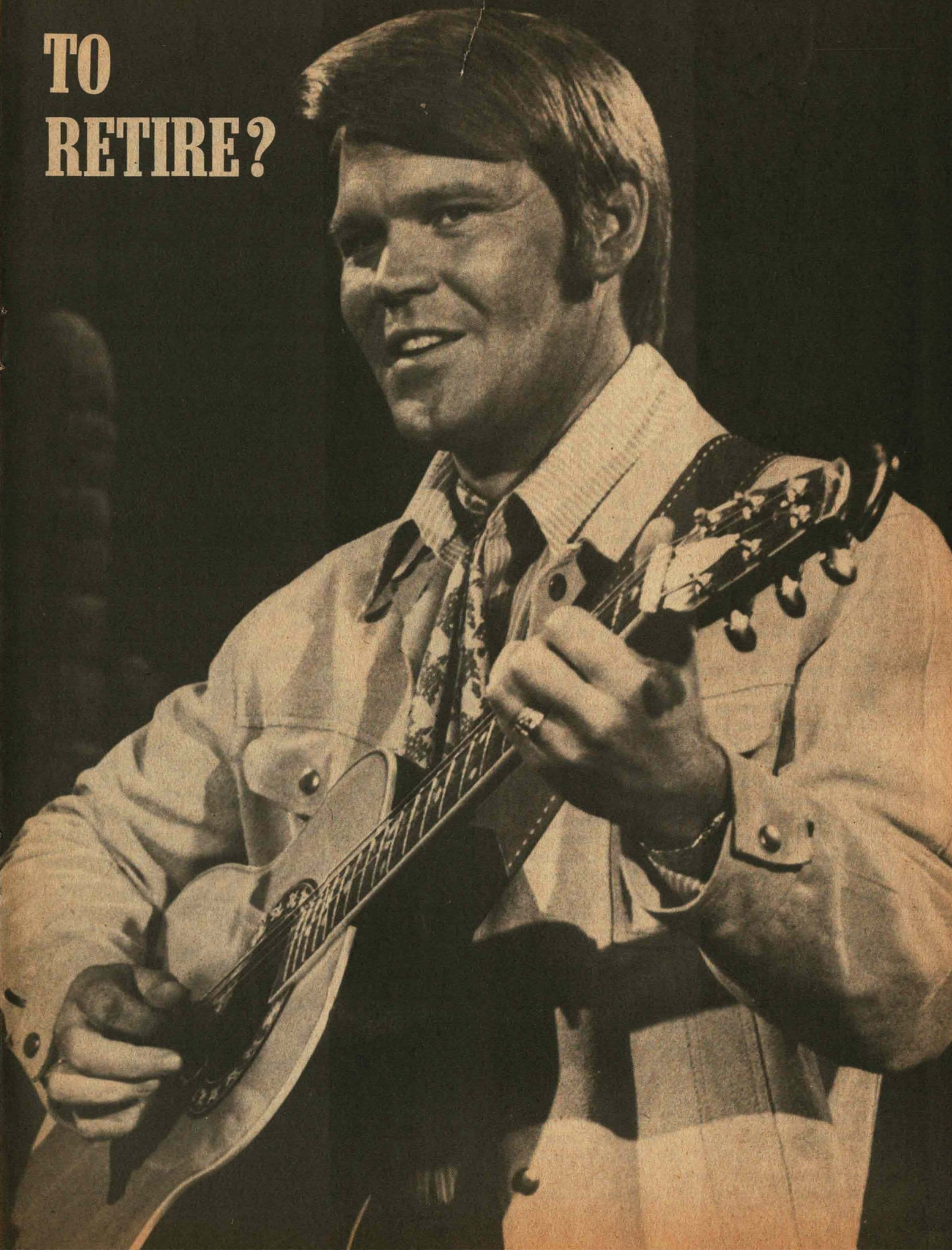
Finance is one thing that Glen has had little problem with these past years. This year alone, Campbell will gross upwards of \$4 million from his diversified entertainment activities. Since his career blossomed less than three years ago, he already has 10 gold



Glen TV guests with rock-pop's top superstar, Tom Jones.



**TO
RETIRE?**



GLEN CAMPBELL TO RETIRE?

records, two films, a string of concert attendance marks and a top rated television series.

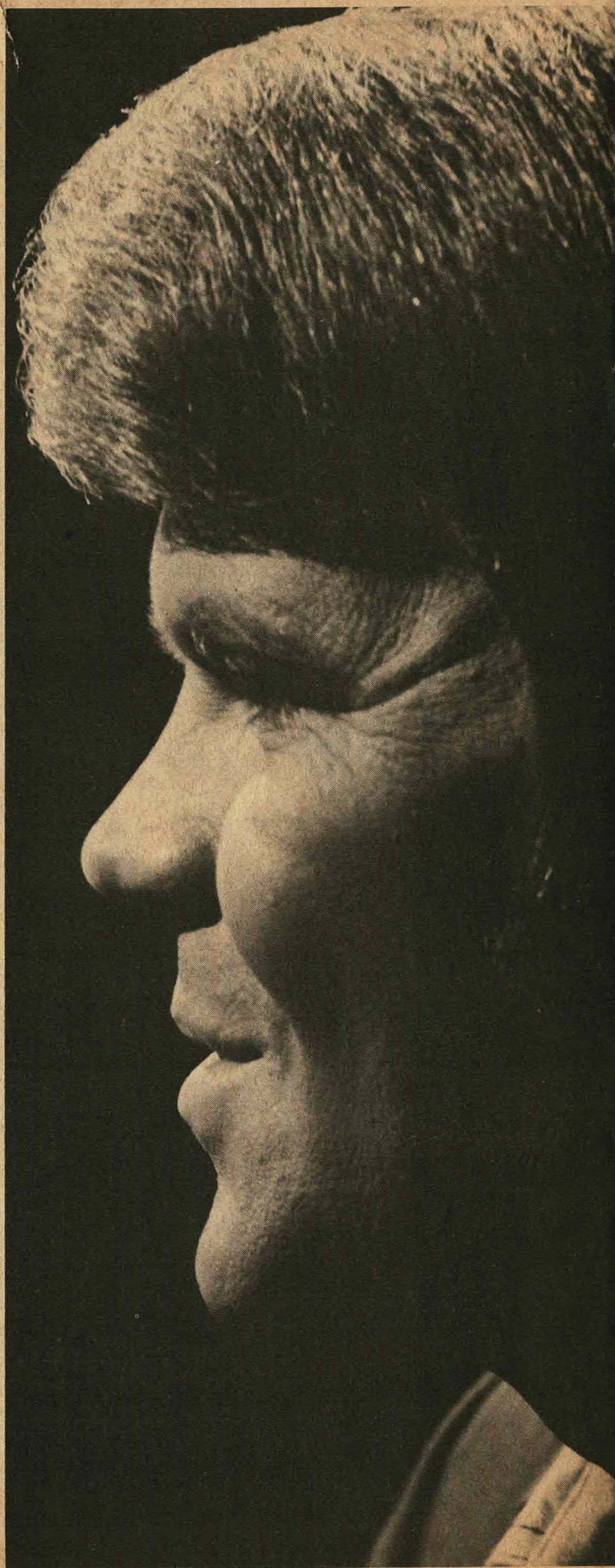
Before the big break in the singing department, Campbell was a top-notch guitarist. Published reports have said he earned \$100,000 picking the guitar. "The figure gets higher all the time", he replies. "I made a good living at it, but a figure like \$50,000 is more accurate." However you add it up, Glen is rich and getting richer by the hour. He claims the money isn't anything in itself, but rather that he is concerned with doing a good job and pleasing his public. If he is paid well (which he is) all the better.

With all his fame and wealth, Glen sometimes talks about taking things slower . . . possibly much slower. He says his mind drifts more during work to things like golf or fishing in the great outdoors. He comments to friends that, "After I close I'm going up to Idaho and fish for anything that jumps on the line. It's really getting hard working on stage. I find myself getting out of wind when I hit a B flat or a C. You need the wind and the lung power. I'm just working too hard and not spending enough time doing what I want to do."

Glen has definitely decided to quit making movies. "I'm just too nervous to perform". He was very nervous, in fact so nervous that they had to shoot scenes over and over when he made "True Grit". That was Campbell's first big movie, and he just couldn't relate to being in the same picture with Duke Wayne. In addition to stopping pictures, Glen is cutting down on TV appearances and making fewer live performances. Glen was asked why he is slowing up on TV and his comment was that he isn't really slowing down but only concentrating on a few programs . . . his programs. He has mastered TV and his **Good Time Hour** is a big success. He is involved in every aspect of the show and thoroughly enjoys doing the show.

Glen has only recently made it big, and it seems ludicrous for a man of his success to retire. Yet, we must remember that he has been in show business for a longer time than we realize. Campbell actually has a surprising early career. He was once a member of the surf-rock group "The Beach Boys". He once played in the Elvis back up group. In addition to playing in scores of back-up groups as a studio musician, Glen played bit parts in movies. He was a musician in a band that played for some short scenes in the movies "The Cool Ones", and "Baby the Rain Must Fall". (He's the one that stops Steven McQueen from getting into a fight.)

After a career like that it's just possible that Glen is tired!



If you are overweight, or if you just want to control your weight, then read how . . .

...I lost 55 lbs. of embarrassing, unsightly fat in only 8 weeks

AND MAINTAINED MY NEW FIGURE!

It is true

I went from a 182 lb. uncomfortable, unhappy girl to a 127 lb. sociable, very happy person in a matter of eight weeks.

HOW IT ALL HAPPENED

After having tried all the commonly known diets—such as calorie counting, starvation diets, dangerous pill diets, high protein diets, etc. I became disgusted with myself because the most I could do was lose a few pounds. It seemed as if I would be starving myself forever in order to lose the amount of weight I wanted to—and, quite frankly, I felt it wasn't worth the headaches, sleepless nights and uncomfortable feeling I always had.

Then my best friend's sister told me of a new method she had discovered. She called it the MARVELEX PLAN. It was so easy that I laughed at her and told her that it was too simple to work.

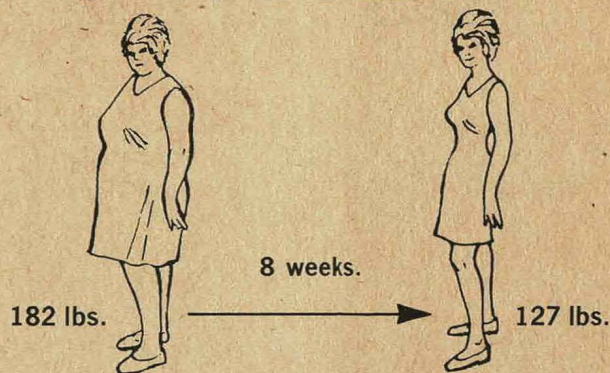
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1. After 10 days you must be on your way to a slender figure.
2. There will be no calorie counting.
3. You must feel better, have more confidence.
4. You must lose the weight desired or a complete refund will be made upon return of the unused portion.
5. If you are dissatisfied in any way, a complete refund will be made with no questions asked.

Inclosed is full payment for your wonderful MARVELEX Plan. I understand that I must lose pounds and inches FAST or I may return the unused portion for a full refund.

- Enclosed is: ☐ Cash, ☐ Check, ☐ Money Order
- ☐ 30 day supply of Marvelex Tablets, only \$5.95
 - ☐ 60 day supply of Marvelex Tablets, only 10.00 (save \$2.)
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Sorry . . . We don't ship C.O.D. orders



TWO MONTHS LATER

Two months later—this past August as a matter of fact—I saw her in a bathing suit. I couldn't believe my eyes. She had gone from a size 20 bathing suit to a size 10! And she said that by following the plan she was able to KEEP THAT MARVELOUS FIGURE.

THAT'S WHEN I STARTED

I asked her how I could get this wonderful plan. I felt that if it had worked for her, I had a better chance to lose weight because I was always more active than she was.

Well, needless to say, it worked. I lost 55 pounds in only 9 weeks and continuing this plan has helped me to keep those ugly pounds off.

If it worked for me, it will work for you.

NOW HERE IS HOW IT WORKS

Take three MARVELEX tablets daily (one before breakfast, one before lunch and one before supper), follow the simple dietary directions accompanying the tablets and watch those horrible pounds shed. But the best part is that once you lose the weight MARVELEX will help you keep that figure you've always dreamed of.

HERE'S ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

Simply fill out the coupon, mail it and you will receive by return mail your MARVELEX Tablets and regimen plan. Simply follow the directions and in no time you will be on your way to having the figure you've always wanted.

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The MARVELEX PLAN is guaranteed to all purchasers. You MUST see results in ten days or you will be given a complete refund of your purchase price. You have nothing to lose but weight.

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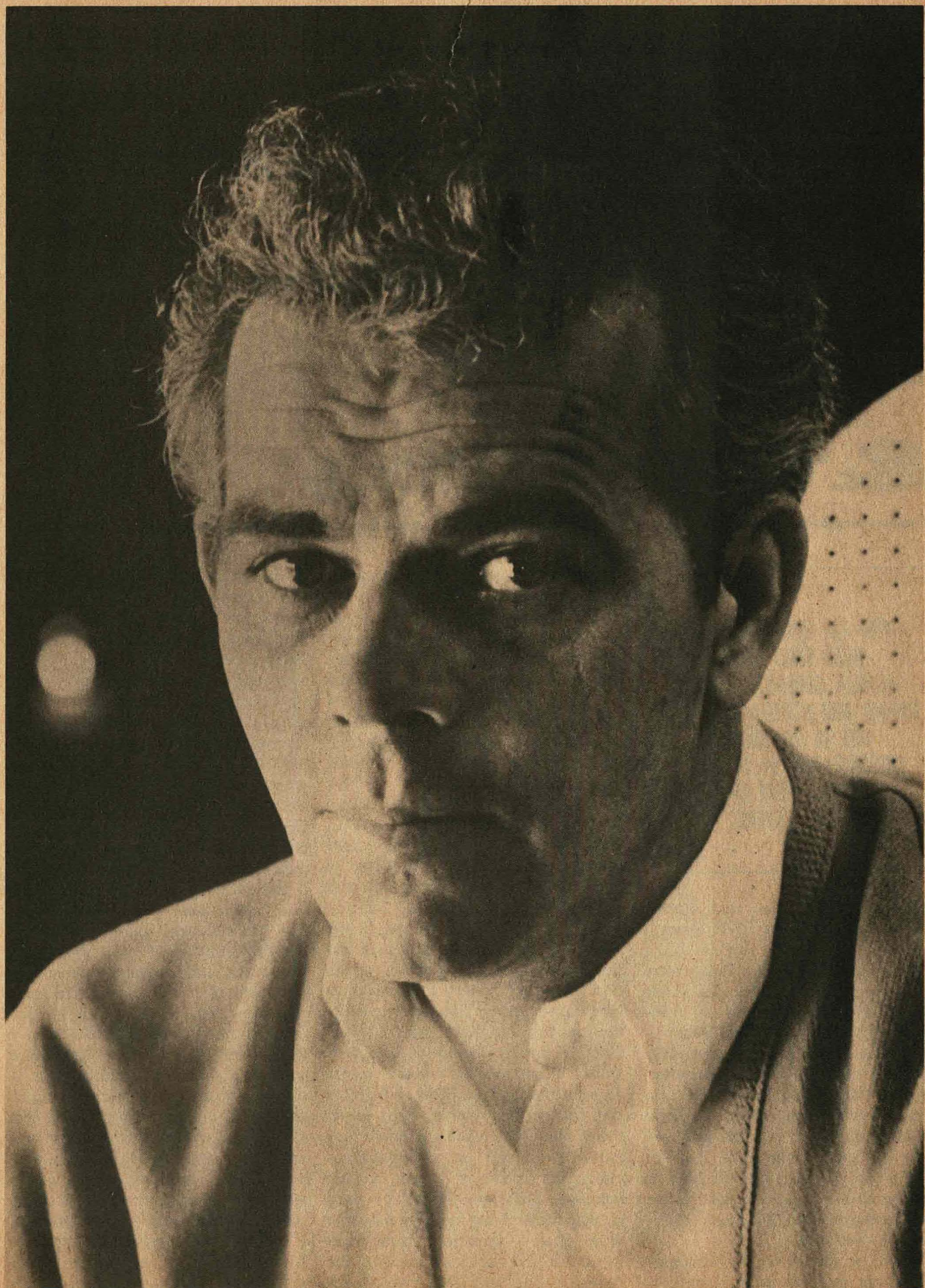
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COUNTRY-WESTERN STARS OF THE MONTH



The Hagers



Roy Drusky

Keeping Up With the Joneses ... George & Tammy

**WITH THE RECENT BIRTH OF
THEIR FIRST CHILD,
TAMELA GEORGETTE JONES,
TAMMY AND GEORGE TAKE TIME
OUT TO REVIEW THE
DISTANCE THEY'VE COVERED
DURING THEIR EVER
RISING CAREERS**

■ The following letter was recently sent to our editor of C&W Stars.

Dear Judy,

I'm happy to report that everyone is much better at the Jones household. Tammy had to have emergency surgery when Georgette was two weeks and five days old, but she is feeling much better. George is feeling better also. He was hospitalized with a liver trouble and got out the day before the baby was born.

We are happy that Tammy is the number 1 female vocalist again for the third year. She's most grateful to everyone.

I was so happy for the hundreds of letters and cards to use. They truly mean much to us, and they really appreciate it.

Thanks again for your support. Mildred (Mrs. Fay Lee)

This letter from Mildred Lee, President of the George Jones-Tammy Wynette Fan Club, is just one of the many examples of the ways in which we are able to keep up with the latest news about the Joneses. Tammy and George are just about the most popular husband and wife stars in the business. Their lives and marriage are examples of achievement in business and love for every C&W music lover. After a lifetime of bad luck, broken marriages and unhappy love affairs Tammy found George and George found Tammy. Tammy sang some of the fabulous songs that George wrote and knew right away that this man had a feeling for life that lived in the bottom of her heart. When George heard Tammy's emotion filled voice project every inner feeling that he had tried so hard to put down in words, he knew that this was the woman for him. It wasn't a difficult decision for either of them to get married. Tammy, especially, had a disastrous marriage when she was much younger, and had three children to take care of as a result. She was also very much ready and willing to love and stand by George. George had had

an unhappy marriage, and he too had fallen in love and needed a woman to love and take care of. The two are now extremely happy. They have a new baby, which everyone adores, they are both very successful at their music, and they have a tremendous following among the C&W fans.

It wasn't always this way for either Tammy or George. As a matter of fact, Tammy recalls many periods in her life when she didn't believe she would ever make ends meet. Born into poverty near Tupelo, Mississippi, Tammy's father died when she was still a child. She wound up living with her grandparents until she was thirteen, since her mother just couldn't take care of her and work to support the rest of the family. She lived a hard working life from a very young age (doing such things as picking and chopping cotton), and she wasn't able to make much money. Being the pretty girl that she is, Tammy was courted by men at an early age, and she was married to one when she was still a teenager. This marriage turned sour and she was finally granted a divorce with custody over the three children. She spent many years after working as a hairdresser. All along she had not been using her enormous singing tal-



ents in order to make money. One day, though, she was delivering some songs for a friend to a studio. There she was auditioned on the spur of the moment, and they loved her. The rest of her story I'm sure is very familiar to all of you! Stardom!

While Tammy was styling hair, and struggling to take care of three young kids, George was fighting in Korea as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. As of then, he hadn't discovered his singing talent . . . at least not professionally. He would entertain fellow corp men, but didn't seriously consider a music career until he was released. After the service he kicked around the country until he finally landed in Nashville. He was loved there. George had no trouble getting signed by the long time renowned country producer H. W. "Pappy" Daily. Pappy, an ex-marine him-

self, took an immediate liking to young George and their friendship grew. Four years later, in 1956, Pappy produced George in his first smash hit "Why Baby Why". From then on, he rose to national fame in the early '60's. He chalked up one hit after the other. In 1962 and 1963 he won both Billboard and Cashbox awards as #1 male vocalist and has been piling up award after award ever since.

According to "Pappy", George's first recordings, such as "Play it Cool" and "No Money in the Deal", were really only mediocre. Since then he has recorded more than 350 songs, many of which he wrote himself and a few of these later went on to be important pop hits for other singers. For instance, Jack Jones sang his "Love Bug" and "The Race is On".

George has dozens of great songs with memorable sentiments,

for George is above all sentimental. His own hall of fame hits include: "You Gotta Be My Baby", "Seasons of my Heart", "White Lightning", "Who Shot Sam", and "Family Bible", and his latest chart busting hit "Say It's Not You" . . . all great lyrics, great tunes and great sentiments!

George has come a long way in the chosen field that actually is his life. He has always been ready to sacrifice and to sweat in order to propel himself higher. He, like his wife Tammy, have endured the one night stands, the long bus rides, the loud truck stops and diners, the stale, luke-warm coffee, and the toughness of the road. But, they have made it through it all, alone in the early days, but now they are together, and breaking records as the George Jones—Tammy Wynette team.

■ Interestingly, but not too surprising, the name Haggard comes from the French word 'hagard' which means untamed hawk. The name fits perfectly, for Merle's life has been as freewheeling and as daring and dangerous as any hawk's. Before he became one of America's top country entertainers, Merle found out about America by drifting through the places where hawks are most likely to dwell. He moved from the great dustbowls of Oklahoma and the teeming wilderness of Texas oil fields to blue-skied California.

It took Merle a long time to tame the hawk inside him and put all his talent in one place, but he's done it and these days his wanderings take the shape of concert tours. Merle, his wife Bonnie Owens, and the Strangers make more personal appearances than almost anyone else. They spend eight months out of the year on the road because that's the way Merle's hawk stays happy. Merle Haggard understands the working man's life and he's lived it, but because of the hawk born in him, he has to fly every so often.

Certainly, Bonnie has had a lot to do with "taming the hawk." As long as she is with her husband, things just seem to go smoother for him, much the way Johnny Cash is noticeably a more reasonable guy thanks to the presence of his wife June Carter. Yet, just recently a question has arisen as to Bonnie's true place in Merle's life. She loves him immensely but had decided that she should spend her time at home with their four children, rather than traveling with Merle's band. They both tentatively agreed to this arrangement, but after four days, Merle sent word back to Bonnie in a telegram that read, "I need you, get back with the show on the next plane." Bonnie went, of course, but she has made some stipulations. She says, "I really am tired and maybe we won't work over five or ten days a month and I can fly to some of the dates and it will give me more time at home." For while Merle and Bonnie are on the road, Merle's mother, Mrs. Flossie Haggard, has been taking care of the children. Merle and Bonnie both recognize this as somewhat of an unfair burden on his mother.

The Merle Haggard-Bonnie Owens team goes back years ago, before the times when Bonnie could afford the luxury of flying from home to anywhere in the country where Merle and the Strangers might be performing. When Merle first met Bonnie she was working as a cocktail waitress in a restaurant. She had been divorced from her previous husband Buck Owens. She wasn't exactly poor, for Buck had seen to her welfare, but she needed to work in order to make ends meet. Merle was far from a successful C&W singer at this time, but he had formed the Strangers and was meeting with some success. Merle had an exceptionally good night singing, and Bonnie couldn't help admiring him. He soon began seeing Bonnie more regularly, and asked her to be his wife within a few months. Bonnie knew she had found a man whom she could love and learn to live with.

Merle may well have the reputation of a loner,

WHY MERLE

and his past may have well earned him this. Growing up the way Merle did would make any man choose to be alone in the world. He was stepped on and kicked from the word go. He finally ended up in Folsom prison for robbery. He doesn't to this day regret what he did, since he knows that he and others like him are so much the victims of people in control of the power and money. The whole subject is something that Merle prefers not to talk about. Anyway, Merle had it tough, and he finds it even tougher not to carry a chip on his shoulder.

Through the years Merle has learned to contain his resentments, and learned how to love those around him. He has a good sense of humor, and this is exemplified in his song "Okie From Muskogee." He claims the entire song was a spur of the moment word game that he and his band made up one evening while on the road. Jokes and kidding are now an important part of Merle's sanity, and he attributes his easiness and basic change in nature to one thing. This most essential element is his wife Bonnie. For Merle is the first to admit that without Bonnie he would be the same old withdrawn, world-hater that he was years ago. She is the one that lets him carry on from day to day with other people. This is why Merle needs his wife, so much that he wouldn't let her quit the business.

Merle is a very strong man in many ways, but his

He may have the reputation of a loner, but the truth is Merle Haggard needs his wife, Bonnie Owens, right beside him



HAGGARD WON'T LET HIS WIFE QUIT!



particular weakness in needing his wife with him all the time, is a great strain on Bonnie. Bonnie also has her own life (that which she considers apart from anyone else) namely her singing career and her children. Both are very, very dear to her and she hates to give them up. Bonnie is an excellent C&W singer. She has released many of her own albums and had a singing career in its beginning before she met Merle. She had spent some time touring with a band called Mac and His Skillet Lickers before deciding to move to Bakersfield and settling in the West Coast center of country music. Yet her first big hit was a duet that she sang with Merle. This song was "Just Between the Two of Us."

Bonnie's four children are all very dependent upon her for comfort and guidance. She has always been a true mother to them, even when she was so uncertain about her own future, as well as theirs. They are all very dear to her, and she feels a special attachment to them (perhaps more than Merle) since she is their mother. Merle is a good father to them, but along with his job (that requires him to travel alot) he has a difficult time giving them definite roots.

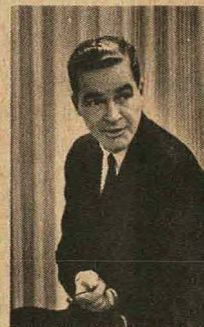
These are all things Bonnie has been taking into careful consideration while she is still uncertain about her career and life as a traveling member of Merle's band. She knows she is needed at her husband's side, and also an integral part of the band itself. These are all problems that Bonnie and Merle will be working out, but after all who is more experienced at working out problems than Merle and Bonnie?

Why men in Accounting, Banking, Sales, Credit, Real Estate, Traffic, Insurance, Government and the Armed Services

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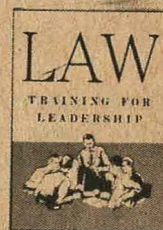


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ALBUM ROUNDUP



MERLE HAGGARD—ALBUM STAR OF THE MONTH

Various Artists: Country Love

■ A solid collection of country winners all dealing with love in the usual country way. All masterpieces of the joys, and sadness found in C&W love music. Such artists as Johnny Cash, Tammy Wynette, Wanda Jackson, Houston, Rich, Price and many others. There are 20 in all and it serves to show how much country music has left its earlier confines. A must to buy!

Stan Hitchcock: Dixie Bell

Hitchcock's move to GRT is an impressive one, as evidenced by his current single hit "Dixie Belle" and this exceptional album followup. His easygoing style and first-rate choice of material make this a sure bet for top sales honors. Included are such recent winners as "Sunday Mornin' Comin' Down", "Wonder Could I Live There Anymore" and "Crystal Chandelier".

Soundtrack to "I Walk The Line" by Johnny Cash

Johnny Cash's career is further broadened with this LP release, the soundtrack of an important new film for which he created and performs the score. Included are the classic "I Walk The Line," "Flesh and Blood" which is his current Columbia single, "Cause I Love You", which was previously recorded with wife June Carter, and "This Side of The Law."

Johnny Cash: Soundtrack to "Little Fauss and Big Halsy"

With five vocal cuts by Johnny Cash and two by Carl Perkins, this soundtrack of the current film is sure to ride straight up the best selling charts. All the songs are Cash and/or Perkins originals with the one exception being Cash's treatment of Bob Dylan's "Wanted Man". Other standouts are "Ballad of Little Fauss and Big Halsy", and "Rollin' Free"

Harlow Wilcox & The "Oakies": Crippled Cricket and Other Country Critters

Three cuts stand out on the LP—"Tennessee Stud", the slowpaced "Last Time" and the exotic "Yellow Bird." But "Cowtown" and "Gonna Find Me a Blue-

bird" are also outstanding. Harlow Wilcox has a great followup album in the package.

Merle Haggard: A Tribute To The Best Damn Fiddle Player In The World

Certainly one of the most acclaimed albums to be recorded, Merle Haggard's new Capitol tribute to old timer Bob Wills stands with the finest yet. Strumming and fiddling with the original Texas Playboys, Merle hits home with his rendition of some of Wills' finest ever recorded. The 1970 Entertainer of the Year borrows, so to speak, the tunes as well as the Wills band for the performance. Selections include "Brown Skinned Gal", "Right or Wrong", "San Antonio Rose", "Roly Poly", "Misery", "Stay a Little Longer", and many other tremendous hits. This album has got to be the best yet.

Conway Twitty: Fifteen Years Ago

One of country music's biggest names has delved back for a few oldies to comprise this latest Decca release. Conway Twitty recalls Bruce Channel's dustladen "Hey Baby" with the same type of flair that's causing him currently to be considered one of the best going. Conway also lends his smooth personal touch to the ever popular "I'll Come Running", and "Back Street Affair". I'm sure you haven't forgotten other greats like, "I Can't Believe You Stopped Lovin' me", and "Sand Covered Angels". This Decca first scores again with loads of talent going into the selected tunes. Do buy it!

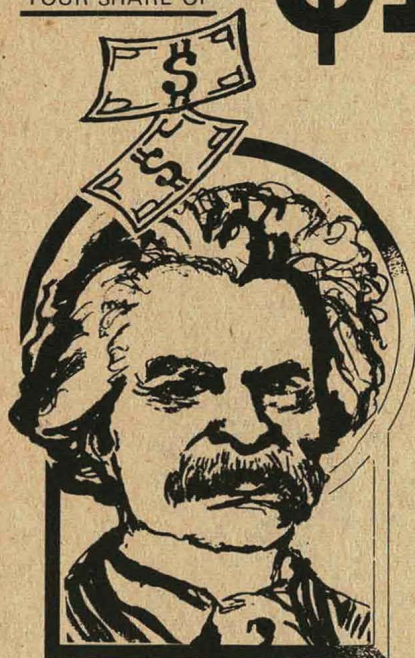
Flatt & Scruggs: Breaking Out

Many were led to believe that with the split-up of the Flatt and Scruggs partnership, fans would be deprived of new releases by the team and would have to settle for the oldies. Not so. Columbia once again has come to the rescue with a new album called "Breaking Out". As usual, the former team has come through with another sparkler, this time with renditions heretofore never released. Sprinkled with instrumentals by Scruggs, the recording gets off to a roaring start with "Foggy Mountain Rock" only to be continued with other gems like "Polka On A Banjo", "Mama Don't Allow", and "Ramblin' Gambler". Also included is the great song "The Great Historical Bum".

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WHAT IS THIS FAMOUS AMERICAN
AUTHOR'S FIRST NAME?
JOHN * MARK * PAUL

HINT: His real name is Samuel Clemens. But he is better known by his pen name.

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CRY	W	E	E	P	E
FRUIT	A	P	P	L	E
SICK	I	L	L	E	E
SOUND	N	O	I	S	E

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Gail Hunt

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■ Chet is often labeled "Mr. Guitar", not simply because he only has an appreciation, but a grasp of every phase of guitar playing. As composer Henry Mancini put it, "As a performer he transcends everything: pop, country, classical, Spanish, and Hawaiian. He's a total musician."

"Mr. Guitar" has won the CMA award for Best Instrumentalist three out of three times. He has cut 41 albums, which have sold approximately 3,500,000 copies. He has played with various symphony orchestras across the United States, at the Newport Jazz Festival, and at the White House.

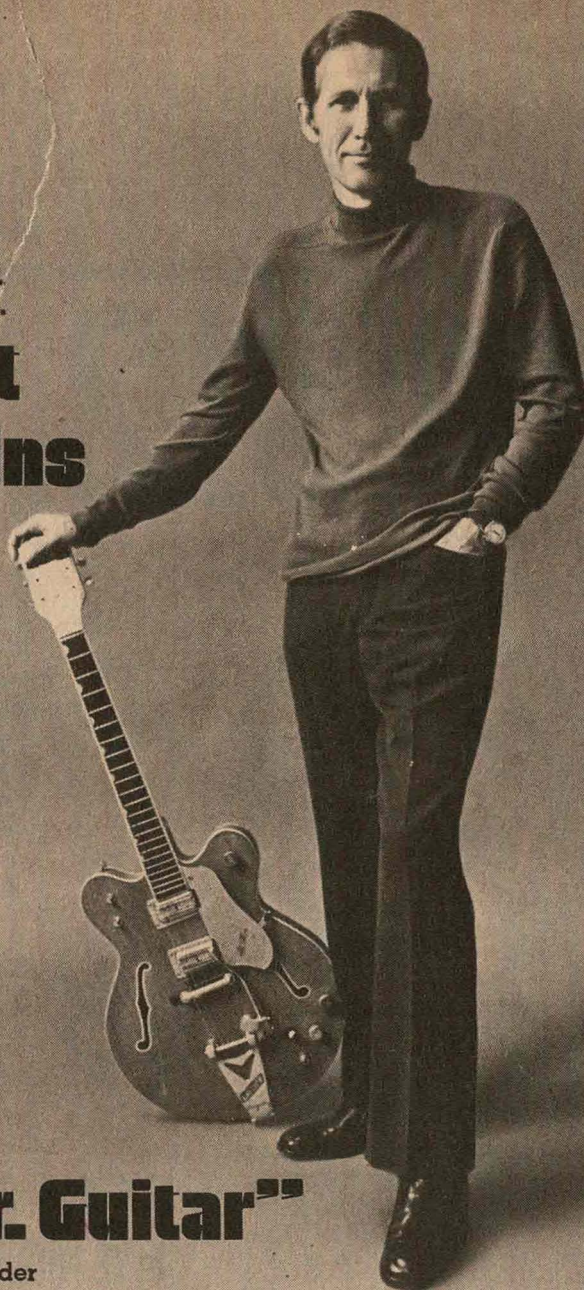
He heads a group featuring pianist Floyd Cramer, sax player Boots Randolph and fellow guitarist Jerry Reed, and makes 25 personal appearances a year, playing to packed houses and laudatory reviews. (His group is called, not suprisingly, The Masters' Festival of Music.)

In addition to his fame as a guitar man, Atkins is a very important businessman for RCA records. He is officially RCA Records' Division Vice President in charge of Popular Artists and Repertoire in Nashville. He is in charge of such artists as Waylon Jennings and Skeeter Davis. He oversees the entire Nashville C&W music scene and makes final decisions on just about every song that comes from RCA and enters under C&W music. So all the RCA hit songs are songs that Chet Atkins originally selected out from hundreds of bad songs!

The Atkins story has its roots in the verdant Clinch Mountains of Tennessee. Chet was born there on June 20, 1924, in the small town of Luttrell, some twenty miles from Knoxville. There he absorbed the music which has become part of America's national heritage and preserved in our mountain vastnesses. His father taught piano and voice; an old wind-up phonograph provided entertainment. Jimmie Rodgers' records were a must for Chet.

By the time he finished high school, he had acquired proficiency on the instrument and was broadcasting from WNOX in Knoxville with Bill Carlisle and with a group billed as the Dixieland Swingers.

Talent Hall Of Fame: **Chet Atkins**



"Mr. Guitar"

by Jon Wieder

He later did radio stints at WLW, Cincinnati; WPTF, Raleigh; WRVA, Richmond; and KDA, Denver. Finally, he landed at WSM in Nashville. It was while there he was signed by mail by the late Steve Sholes, who had discovered and developed many major artists during his long career at RCA. Sholes contacted Chet immediately after hearing an electrical transcription of a tune called "Canned Heat". This was the beginning of the Chet Atkins' success story. He played a number of hit singles in a row, and produced album after album. His guitar playing, origination and imitation of various licks and runs, could be matched by none. He has an extremely high level of proficiency at picking up tunes and

singling out key melodies. Needless to say Chet's perfect pitch and fast fingers led him to be one of the most famous players in the business in a short time.

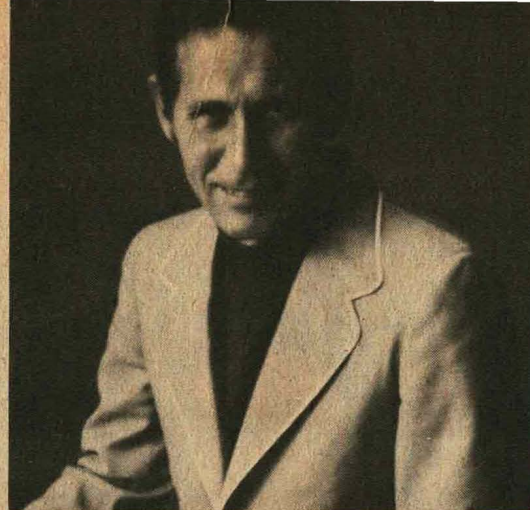
In 1950, Chet became a regular member of the world-renowned Grand Ole Opry, about the time country fans were humming and buying "Galloping Guitar." People loved him so much that they refused to let him off the stage. He had to play an entire second set just to prevent a minor riot. "Actually, Chet recalls, I was so flattered that I could barely do my numbers, I tried to play it cool, but I just couldn't hold my excitement and appreciation back." The C&W fans have loved him ever since.

Chet doesn't like to think about

his past too often. It's not that he is ashamed, for he is proud to be a Southerner and especially proud of his C&W heritage, but times were so hard, he almost didn't make it. Black memories of acute asthmatic attacks on those hot, muggy summer nights bring a chill up his back. He remembers being taken from his 50 acre home as a small boy to the local county hospital. It was then that he was told he might never be able to run or play sports like any other child. For years after, Chet was forced to a sedate life, while the rest of the family worked hard on the farm. "We were poor in those days," Chet recalls. "We had a 50 acre farm, but only about 15 of those were good land. And during the time of my illness, there was a big drought in the eastern U.S. and we were losing all our crops. Somehow, just somehow I knew I had to get away and do some good with myself. You never know what shapes your destiny, and I'm actually grateful for my past in some ways, for it gave me ambition and drive. My sickness and poverty caused me to delve into my talents."

Chet was always taking clocks and things apart to see how they worked. He was also a reader. While just laying around as a youth, he read everything he could get his hands on. He wasn't interested in intellectual pursuits, but concerned himself more with electronics and mechanics. He neglected his education to concentrate on the guitar. Armed with a super ability on the guitar and an amateur knowledge of electronics, Chet left home.

Mention the name Carter Family to Atkins and he gets misty eyed. These people were the first people to recognize Chet's great ability and perhaps more importantly the first real family that Chet had. They practically adopted Chet as one of their own, and helped him tremendously to develop as a musician. Mother Maybelle Carter explains "We met Chester in Knoxville when we were working the same radio station. We liked his style of playing, and he seemed to be a fine boy, so we talked it over and decided we wanted him. We approached him and he said



**The phenomenal
life and
career of
Chet Atkins**

he'd love to work with us, and we were together almost three years."

After working with the Carter family for three years, Chet decided to go on his own again. He had become familiar with Nashville from performances in the city, and fortunately some of the scouts had seen him and liked him. He was contacted, offered a contract with RCA and he signed. Chet has now been with the company for over 20 years. He has provided a tremendous amount for the co. and RCA has helped him to be the star he is today. Chet was always faithful to RCA, faithful to C&W music, and above all faithful to himself through the years. Chet's producer, Bob Ferguson, says "The establishment of our studio coincided with the oncoming of rock and roll, and the demise of country music. Many producers were switching, but Chet had sound he believed in. He believed that country music is good music, that it has purity, and that it should be performed well. Throughout the dry spell Chet persisted. He was educating the public to good country music and gradually getting acceptance. His contribution to the quality of Nashville music is almost beyond comprehension."

In an exclusive interview with Chet, he finally began to talk about his feelings about his work today, and the qualities in himself that brought him to being the man he is today. "An A&R man has to know the capabilities of the instruments, has to have the electronic qualifications, has to know sound, and, above all, he should be enthusiastic," Chet explains. "When I came here I was young, innovative, unsuccessful, and will

ing to try anything. I got into it because it was a challenge. I always use the best musicians, and play the best music, whatever it is. Music is sacred to me.

"After the war, emphasis was on T.V., and live country music—well, all live music, as far as that goes—died on radio. My background in radio enabled me to see that radio was going to have to depend on recorded music, and I was instrumental in pointing country music to this new source.

"People say I have a rare ability to establish a rapport with, and gain respect from other musicians. When I hear a musician, I just can't rest until I have brought that person to Nashville. Floyd Cramer, Anita Kerr, Bryron Williams were just some of the many I discovered.

"I'm an unorthodox executive. It breaks my heart to get onto somebody, or to tell somebody no. I hate to turn down anybody, because it seems like. I got turned down half my life.

"The last thing I can think about myself of importance, is that through the years I've learned not to be impulsive, and never take action for the sake of taking action. I have an inherent ability to sit tight while I think things out. Once I make a decision, however, it's final. I guess it really amounts to a good old country business head."

It might be easy to get the impression that Chet brags about his career, but actually he is only telling it like it is, and no one can debate that Chet is great. Just on the side, the records show that Chet is now accounting for over 43% of RCA's gross in the Nashville division.

MORE TROUBLE FOR



■ The word disaster might be a bit strong, but it looks like that is what John Cash's TV Show is headed for. The problem? . . . Well, it seems that the TV viewer ratings have fallen devastatingly this fall, and many rumors about the show being dropped have been floating around. It seems that Johnny was getting too liberal, at least for the country taste. When the "Guess Who" (a rock group) are being featured on John's show, his audience feels it's about time to quit watching. After all, it's enough that John features movie stars and guests such as Dennis Hopper, Bob Dylan and Joni Mitchell (personalities with questionable allegiances and weird tastes), but a rock group? No sir.

Well, John has reevaluated his show and decided to sway back towards the country. He's a country boy himself, and no one knows better than him what it's like to live the country life. He loves dearly the whole country scene, and claims that he was only trying to round the country off a bit with such people as the "Guess Who". John happens to like the group, but he can see why many people might find them objectionable.

It seems now that things are back to normal. The show just taped was at the Grand Ole Opry house. On the bill were Merle Haggard, Bonnie Owens and The Strangers; Anne Murray; Homer and Jethro; and Ramblin' Jack Elliot.

Better still is the kind of music they play. There is 20-30 minutes of Haggard and Haggard's music, including "Sidewalks of Chicago" by Merle himself; "Lonesome Fugitive" by the Carter family; "I Take a Lot of Pride" beautifully rendered by Carl Perkins; "Silver Wings", done by the Carter family; and "Swinging Doors", "Sing Me Back Home" and others, in a medley teaming the talents of Cash, June Carter, Bonnie Owens and Merle.

The rest of the bill is equally unbelievable for disenchanted country music lovers who have apparently reached their saturation point this fall with acts such as the "Guess Who". It was all good country, including Anne Murray's performance of "Sing High, Sing Low".

Homer & Jethro are refreshing country comedy and music fare; and Ramblin' Jack Elliot yodels the fire out of "Muleskinner Blues". Even a "hard

JOHNNY CASH

JUST WHEN IT SEEMED THE GREAT JOHN CASH HAD LICKED HIS TROUBLE-FILLED PAST, IT LOOKS LIKE HIS TELEVISION SHOW MIGHT BE HEADED FOR DISASTER. WHAT'S WRONG?



Johnny joins pop singer Jose Feliciano in a guitar medley.



Pop singer Vikki Carr and Johnny Cash sing and chatter.



Folk singer Burl Ives teams up with Johnny as special guest.



Comedian George Gobel joins Johnny on his ABC-TV show.

country" fan couldn't ask for more on a network TV show.

There may come a day of course, when TV fans tire of country product (this I seriously doubt, since all signs show that C&W is on it's way up with no end in sight), but, so far, the Cash show hasn't even given them the chance. In fact, there's strong evidence that even the great Johnny Cash can't hold an audience for more than a season or two when his product is diluted with 70-80% other stuff (namely the "Guess Who"). In other words, Country and Western music is King!

John Cash continues to set records in both his record sales and personal appearances. But in these cases he isn't trying to musically showcase a Doug McClure, a Michael Parks or other TV viewer time wasters like the "Guess Who".

Actors, however great, do not necessarily make musical performers, and Screen Gems has apparently exhausted the patience of a few million viewers—namely the vast middle America majority—the C&W fans. John's show has, however, been picked up by the network for another season. With luck, the pro-

ducers will give more time to great country talent and the viewing figures will improve.

The up-coming shows look good, with such celebrities as Tommy Cash, The Everly Brothers and their father, Ike, and the entire Cash family, including baby John Carter. We can expect to see a lot more of Merle Haggard, Roy Clark, Charley Pride, The Carters, The Stoneman, June Carter, Buck Owens and son Buddy Alan, Bonnie Owens, Tammy Wynette, and many other terrific stars. In addition to such greats, John hopes to continue to introduce new personalities (though strictly of the great old C&W bent), and air new songs being circulated. We can look forward to John's songs, and his fabulous stories of the great Western heritage of both today and yesterday.

Beyond this, there isn't much more scheduled for the show's format, considering that the show's entire future was so recently in doubt. Yet, if the show were to be dropped, one thing for certain is that it couldn't be blamed on the country music. C&W music is here to stay, and the fans just won't stand for anything else.

Sonny James: How

■ Just as "endless" as his current number one hit, is the talent of renowned popular country music artist Sonny James.

Sonny is currently riding the crest of 23 straight number one hits and industry spokesmen are predicting the string will become even longer before it's broken. Just released the first of the month was a new album by Sonny which features only songs which have sold more than one million copies each. These songs have standards in the music industry.

George Richey, A&R director for the Nashville division for Capitol records and producer of Sonny's album called it a great performance by Sonny. "This album is without question the greatest album Sonny has ever done", George said recently. "We've tried some new things in the album . . .

things that are new for a Sonny James recording session, like using a steel guitar".

Leaning back and grinning, Sonny talked rather comfortably about his new album and his venture away from the usual types of songs he does. "I'm real excited about the album. When I record any song, I always try to take into consideration my fans and whether or not the songs will be ones that they will buy. I have put the songs with good arrangements, and I am extremely pleased with the results."

Sonny James is a living legend and has proved the old adage, "nice guys don't finish first" is a misconception. He is one of the nicest guys in the business and has had 23 consecutive number one hit songs. In fact it is Sonny's noble ways that made him

just about the most respected entertainer around what does Sonny have that is so golden? A touch to his song that make them live with excitement and beam with believability. He is a man who cares deeply about his public the people who buy his records and who appear in droves to see him in concert. Sonny is not called the "Southern Gentleman" for no reason he has retained the charm and mild manners that make a man a gentleman, and his success has not in the least gone to his good-looking head he remains modest and tranquil no matter how praised and worshipped he is and this is not an easy task.

Following his first appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show, the network received such an avalanche of mail, it moved Sullivan and net-

Shown below are Sonny James and his Southern Gentlemen one of Country Western's favorite singing groups.



to make hit records

work executives to send out public releases to the effect that no other artist had ever drawn so much mail. Consequently, Sonny has returned to the Sullivan Show several times as an "extra-special" guest. He is one of the few men in Country music who has appeared on most major network musical shows.

And speaking of television shows, Sonny is just the type of entertainer you are happy to invite into your home via television. He presents a clean, wholesome show and feels that if you invite him into your home to sing for you, he will act just like he would if were actually sitting in your living room.

So, Sonny James, you are, according to the popularity charts, airplay, awards and acclaim, number one country-western singer... how does it feel? When asked this question, Sonny replies, "If by

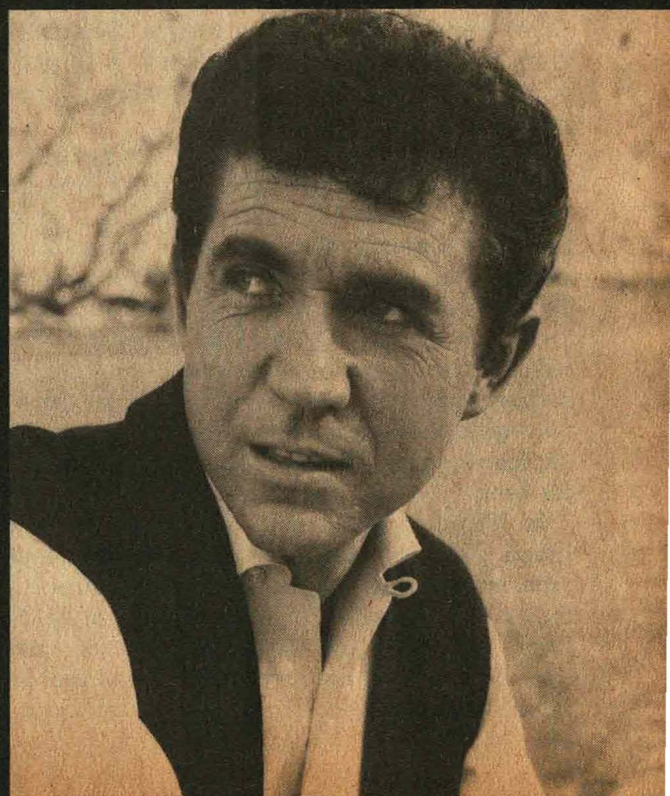
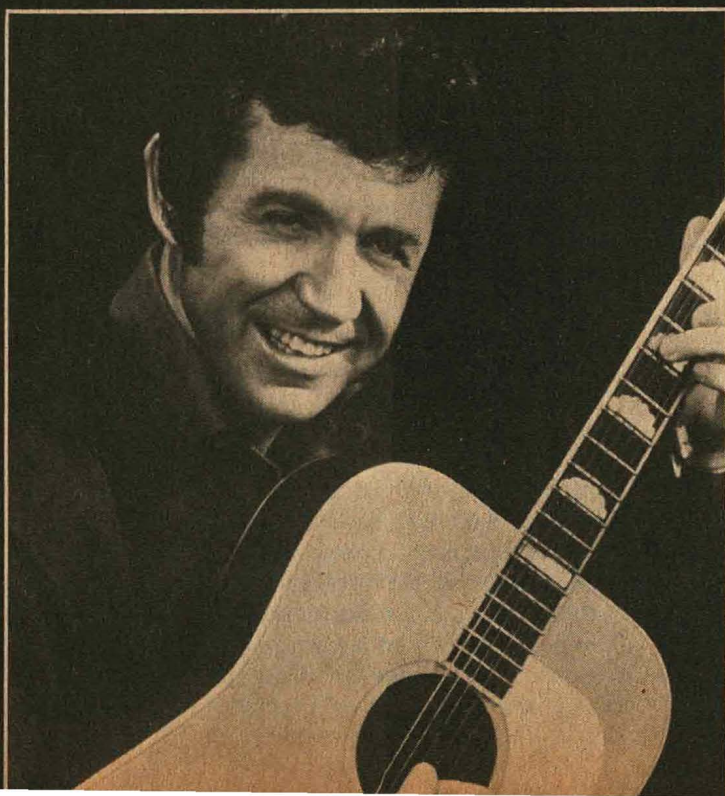
number one it means that I am bringing the most enjoyment to listeners of country music... then it feels great, because that is my goal in singing. But being number one gives me a great responsibility too... I feel that all the people who give me their support deserve the best... and so I must constantly strive for this standard."

Sonny's contribution to country music is not, of course, limited to hit records and personal appearances. As a writer as well as an artist, Sonny composes and performs the kind of material which defines 'country' music — songs dealing with everyday living, with common emotions, with feelings and events that any listener can identify as his own. Sonny believes in the simplicity of country music; warm and personable, he brings his music to his audience. On this

theme, Sonny once said, "The world is a confusing and complicated place... and we need to find simplicity in this maze. Too many people look outside themselves for answers... in politics, in philosophy, in literature... but the answers are always within ourselves, and country music shows us what's inside of us."

A perfectionist, a consummate professional, a man totally familiar with the meaning and origin of his music, Sonny has indeed done much to introduce country music to the public and to make it a part of the national musical heritage. It takes a great deal more than an impressive number of hit records to truly be NUMBER ONE, and Sonny possesses the intrinsic quality, as well as the talent, to more than justify his position as the country's favorite. ●

After 23 hits in a row, let's face it — the James boy is the one the public loves best! What's the secret behind the respect given to C&W's favorite southern gentlemen?





Peggy Little Has A Great Big Heart

■ "I Knew You'd Be Leaving" is one of little PEGGY LITTLE'S latest hits but career-wise it's just the opposite since she has new fans arriving every time she walks center stage. On her numerous Mike Douglas Show appearances, Douglas has called the Dot Record delight vibrant, charming and delightful; add to those unbelievable, fantastic, childlike beautiful and you have the makings of the sweet and pert Peggy Little, newest sensation on the country music scene.

Peggy is all this and more! She's a powerhouse of sound in a petite four-foot-eleven frame. She's a show business veteran, having entered the field at the age of ten. She is a fabulous cook, specializing in Mexican food. She's a push-over for kids, as she admits with a grin, her big heart goes out to every one of them, and she's been known to play up to kids in the audience.

"I've always loved country music," bubbles Peggy, "even when I was a kid in Marlin, Texas. I got my first singing job with a radio station in Waco, Texas, when I was ten, and I had to stand on a coke case to reach the mike."

Peggy's next big break was a several week engagement on **Shindig**. Then, when she was twelve, her family moved to Dallas where she appeared on **Joe Bill's Country Picnic** for five years. During her last year on the show, she met and married the first boy who ever kissed her and retired from show business. I quit singing because I always thought a woman should be at home with her family" Peggy philosophizes. "I was content to take care of my two girls and little boy, Charlie Brown, but the explosive voice of Peggy Little could not be hidden for long.

In 1966, Peggy cut some demonstration tapes for a friend. The tapes were sent to a Dot Record producer who immediately signed her to a contract. Peggy's first two releases, "Come on Home" and "Help Me Love You," put her onto the national charts and into the hearts of country fans everywhere. Her third release, a song about a girl falling for the only boy

who ever kissed her, was the award winning, "Son Of a Preacher Man." Peggy continued her dominance of the charts with "Sweet Baby Girl" and "Mama, I Won't Be Wearing A Ring," along with having astounding album success.

"I guess a woman can be a mother and have a career too," she now admits, with a sparkle in her eye. "I love children, mine and everybody else's, and I think my getting back into singing has made me appreciate them even more." Peggy always takes her children's pictures with her whenever she travels, in a small photo album, and she is quick to show the pictures to anyone who mentions children to her. She is a proud mother and a mother about whom a child could be proud.

"Peggy is one of those naturally great people," explains a friend, "who oozes talent. She is not a big put on and everyone knows it, so they all adore her."

Peggy's down-home humor, coupled with her rib-tickling giggle and twinkling expressions lend an air of comedy to her appearance. As she explained to Mike Douglas. "I walked out on **Midnight Cowboy** because I thought it was a Western." And as she was quoted in a newspaper column, "I know my popularity is increasing, one letter poured in last week."

Peggy is Peggy, and that's a heck of a lot! Even with constant musical commitments, Peg finds time to further her avid interests in stock and modified racing, cheer for the Dallas Cowboys, read like a bookworm, and cook up a storm. "I love to cook and eat good food, but I'd rather dance than eat." Peggy's other avocation is traveling, and that is something that she does in abundance. "I love people, and this business gives me a chance to meet all kinds and in all sorts of interesting places. It is my greatest joy to bring happiness to those I meet, and I find I can do it best by singing. I think that country music has the ability to bring people together and unite them, and the world needs bringing together."



The way she has with fans, Peggy will be traveling for the rest of her life.

Peggy and her family recently moved to Tennessee and now reside in a small subdivision. "I just love this state," exclaims the pixie Peggy. "The more I see of it, the more I feel at home." But then it's easy for Peggy to feel at home anywhere; she just has a way with people that makes them open up and love her. "It was kind of funny," she continues, "but when I moved here from Texas, several people welcomed me to the United States. Tennessee is truly God's country; it's beautiful!

Peggy's hectic schedule of personal appearances

include her recent smash stint at Las Vegas's Golden Nugget, an appearance on **Hee Haw**, and guestings on major syndicates, including **The Bill Anderson Show**, **The Wilburn Brothers Show**, **Shindig**, **Midwestern Hayride**, **Billy Walker's Country Carnival** and **Jim Ed Brown's Country Place**.

It's a long way from Dallas to Nashville when you are built close to the ground like Peggy Little. But, Peggy has a voice big enough to reach to the heavens, and that is what she has done; she reached for the stars and she became one of them. She will continue to shine from God's country as long as there is country music.

Doug Kershaw-

■ Sure Doug's felt the breath of the evil spirits on him," says a Louisiana friend, with a twinkle, "but he's had schoolin' in the ways of spirits." Doug Kershaw's neighbors and kinfolk know what to do when ghosts appear for there is much good advice in Louisiana's bayou country on the spirit world. The swamp land, with its strangely shaped oak trees wrapped in Spanish moss, could well be the home of the pirate Lafayette's ghost whose bony finger, it is said, points towards a lost treasure as well as to the port of a long gone pirate's ship. Now, if you are troubled with ghosts here's advice from the Louisiana swamps: hang a horseshoe on your door; burn sawdust and sprinkle the ashes in the corner of the house; burn two white candles on the floor in front of your fireplace; turn your pockets inside out; and, never pass a cemetery unless holding a little child by the hand. If the ghosts still won't leave turn around three times and spit on them. I doubt if Doug ever heeded this advice, but such strange tales from this strange land, told in an even stranger language, shaped his life's work.

The Cajuns, as Doug's people are called, are a very unusual group. They are country folk who live and die in the bayou (river) country of south-central Louisiana. They are thrifty, fun loving and deeply religious (this is also an almost exact description of Doug). They have very large families. (Doug's got a long way to go from his two). The Cajuns use colorful nicknames like Titi, Lala, Noon, Tootsie, Bootsie and Bos. What would best fit Doug: Happy, Joker, Fiddler? The Cajuns speak an unusual language, a mixture of French and English. This lan-



Some folks call him "that crazy Cajun fiddler," others just sit and stare. But the fact is, Doug Kershaw doesn't care what people are saying anymore. As long as they listen to him, he's happy. You see, Doug Kershaw's come a long way for a "Louisiana Man."

Up From The Bayou

guage and their great tradition of country dance music played by a group with accordion, fiddle, guitar, triangle, and sometimes harmonica, are the sources of Doug Kershaw's artistry. His remarkable, fast fiddling was learned when he, a guitar and triangles would play for the "fais-dodos" (French meaning: "go to sleep") public dances. These dances would sometimes go on for days and were perhaps the original models for the popular marathon dances of the 1930's. (Remember Jane Fonda in **"They Shoot Horses, Don't They?"**) Now we know most of the elements in Doug Kershaw's background, but how did he put it all together?

When Doug was about 15, with fiddle, and brother Rusty with guitar, a band called the Continental Playboys was formed. They played at all night dances (Rusty in his Captain Marvel T-shirt). About this time J. D. Miller and his local Feature Records recorded Doug and Rusty doing Doug's "No. No It's Not So" in Nashville. When Doug was 18 and Rusty 16 they did "So Lovely Baby" for Hickory Records in Nashville; this really started the older brother's singing and writing career. In May of 1956 they were called to go to Wheeling, West Virginia. They had a show there every Saturday night called the Wheeling Jamboree (World's Original Jamboree) and they became regular members of it and played all through the New England states. As a kid in the swamps of Louisiana, Doug used to dream of the big sky of Canada and clean mountain air of Vermont; he now had a chance to enjoy these. In 1957 they signed a contract with the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee. Shortly after this Doug went into the service. In 1960 he was once again a civilian,

broke and dreaming big dreams.

Doug's dreams were of his youth and his people, of his hard working mother, Rita, of his brothers, of the day-to-day life in the Cajun's rice field, of alligator hunters, of trappers in the cold, wet marsh lands, of fishermen of the Gulf for crab and crayfish, of that warm-blooded, laughter-loving people rich in courage and strength. This was when "Louisiana Man" was born, a song that has now been recorded some 850-odd times. Now that Doug Kershaw knew who he was, had really found his roots, he was ready to listen and learn. To see him many years later, singing duets with his mother, joking and warmly recalling his youth, on the David Frost show is to understand the self-realization that has come to him. It was shortly after this that Buddy Killen got him signed with Warner Brother Records and a gentleman by the name of Johnny Cash asked him to be on his premier show. The outcome has been fantastic.

Doug has just finished an album and is in the process of filming a TV special titled (you guessed it) "The Louisiana Man." Life for this self-educated boy out of the bayou country isn't too bad. A friend quotes Doug as saying, "But it's sorta like french kissing an alligator. Kissin' him ain't bad, but turning loose of that booger is hoss." (That's Cajun for having a tiger by the tail.) Doug's written many songs and now lives in the heart of the Country-Western capitol. Nashville, Tennessee. He's got a Mark III in front of the studio that he thinks mightn't start when he turns the key. It's all a long way from when Mamma Rita was taking in washing for 50 cents a day and her boys were shining shoes.

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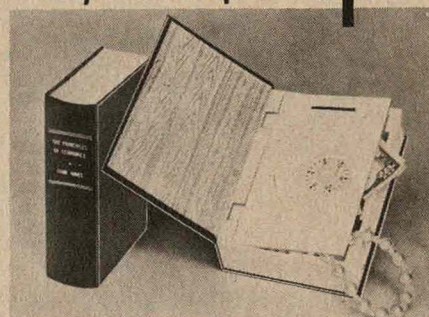
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COUNTRY VISIT WITH Freddie Hart & Jack Barlow



FREDDIE HART

FREDDIE HART is a star who worked his way from poverty to stardom. One of 14 children, he had it just about as hard as any man could. He quit school after the second grade in order to help his starving family with sharecropping. At 13, he illegally joined the Marines and was discharged honorably four years later at 17. He has always had music in his heart, even before he got his first guitar when he was only five. Kicking around the country, landing in jail, sleeping in ditches, and working odd jobs, Freddie was fast learning about the harsh realities of life in the USA. The music business was lousy for him until 1949 when he met Hank Williams in Nashville. Hank gave him hope and advice: "Sing every song as if it's the last thing you'll ever sing. You'll make

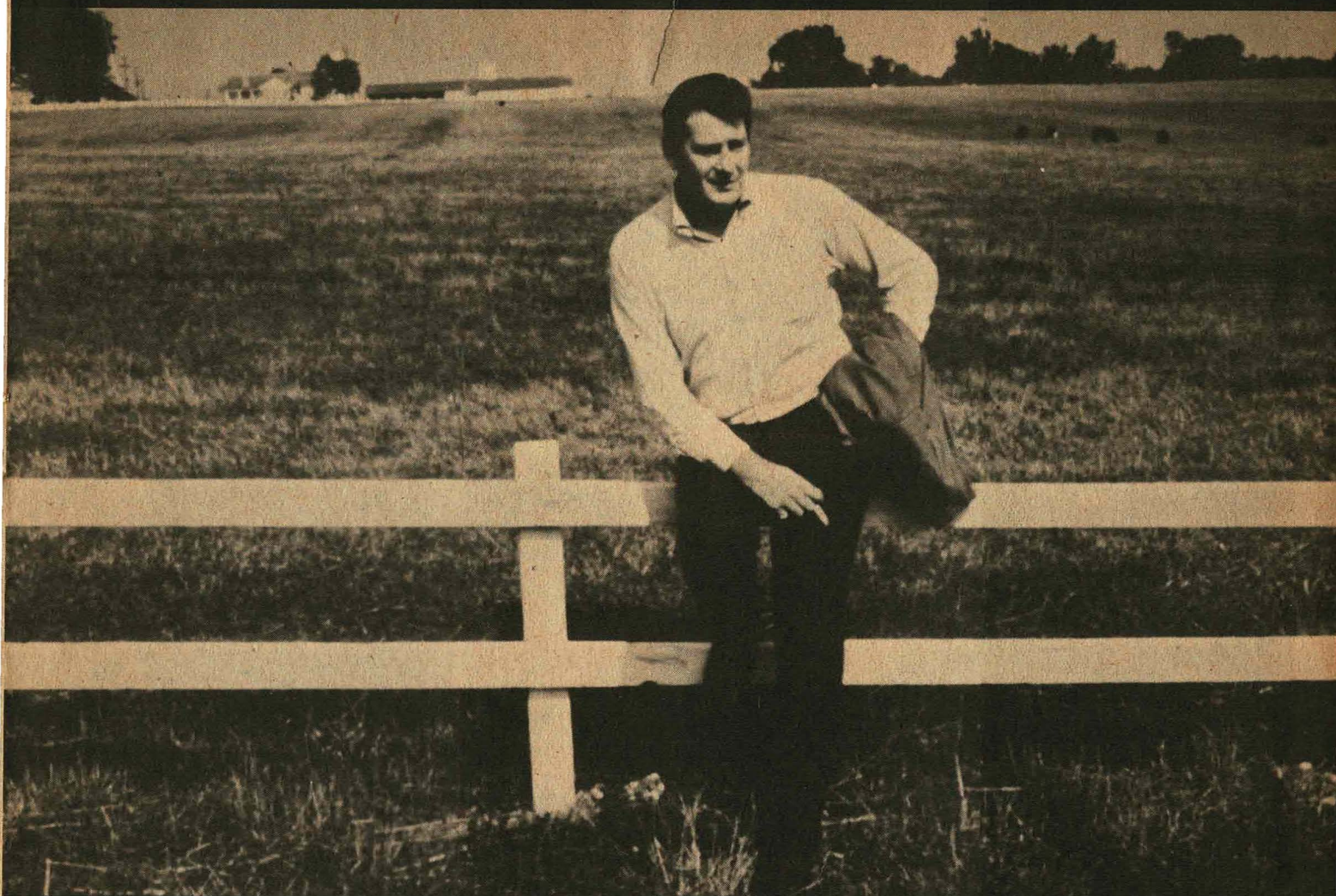
it, but you have to believe in yourself, or nobody will believe in you." Freddie thinks that's the best bit of advice anyone has ever given him. That same year, George Morgan recorded Freddie's first song.

Freddie slowly gained confidence in his music ability. He gradually became better recognized and more closely followed as a C&W singer. Jack McFadden, Buck Owens' manager, finally saw Freddie, liked him, and signed him up. Such stars as Patsy Cline, Joe South, Lefty Frizzel, Porter Wagoner, and Buck Owens' have all recorded his songs. "Loose Talk" was the first Freddie Hart single released. The year was 1954.

Freddie comments on his first appearance at the Grand Ole Opry by saying that he had dreamed so long, and wished so hard

for that moment, that when the time actually arrived for him to perform, he didn't even care. Of course, it was a big honor, but he just didn't know how to relate to it. As it turned out, he performed and the people have loved him ever since.

Today, Freddie lives with his wife and four children in Burbank, California, near the Capitol Tower where he can spend time in the studios. He wants to open a school for orphans, under-privileged kids, boys just out of reform school, and other kids with problems. That's an ambition that dates back to the time when Freddie taught judo and karate at the Los Angeles Police Academy. "I learned how important self-defense is, not how to attack somebody, but how to be able to stand up for yourself. I'd



JACK BARLOW

like to teach these boys whatever I can about songwriting and music and judo; sure, it's so they will have a sense of self, so they can stand up for their rights. Kids today have got to have more pride in themselves if they are going to be able to cope with reality. It's a hard reality, you know, and these kids are going to have to handle it themselves so another generation can have a chance."

JACK BARLOW is a big man. He stands six feet, four inches, weighs 235 pounds, sports brown hair, has penetrating blue eyes and a strong belief in doing things in a big way.

Coming from a musically inclined family, Jack was literally hired off the tractor seat to be an announcer deejay in Muscatine, Iowa. He

began attending the annual deejay conventions in Nashville and fell in love with the whole Nashville scene. "I love country music, got my own big ideas and decided to take dead aim at the bigtime in the biggest C&W music center of them all," he recalls. Jack followed up his vow by penning and recording "I Love Country Music" as his first disc venture. He followed that release with "With A Smile On My Face" and "Long Green." Finally, Jack succeeded in getting a solid offer from Dot records.

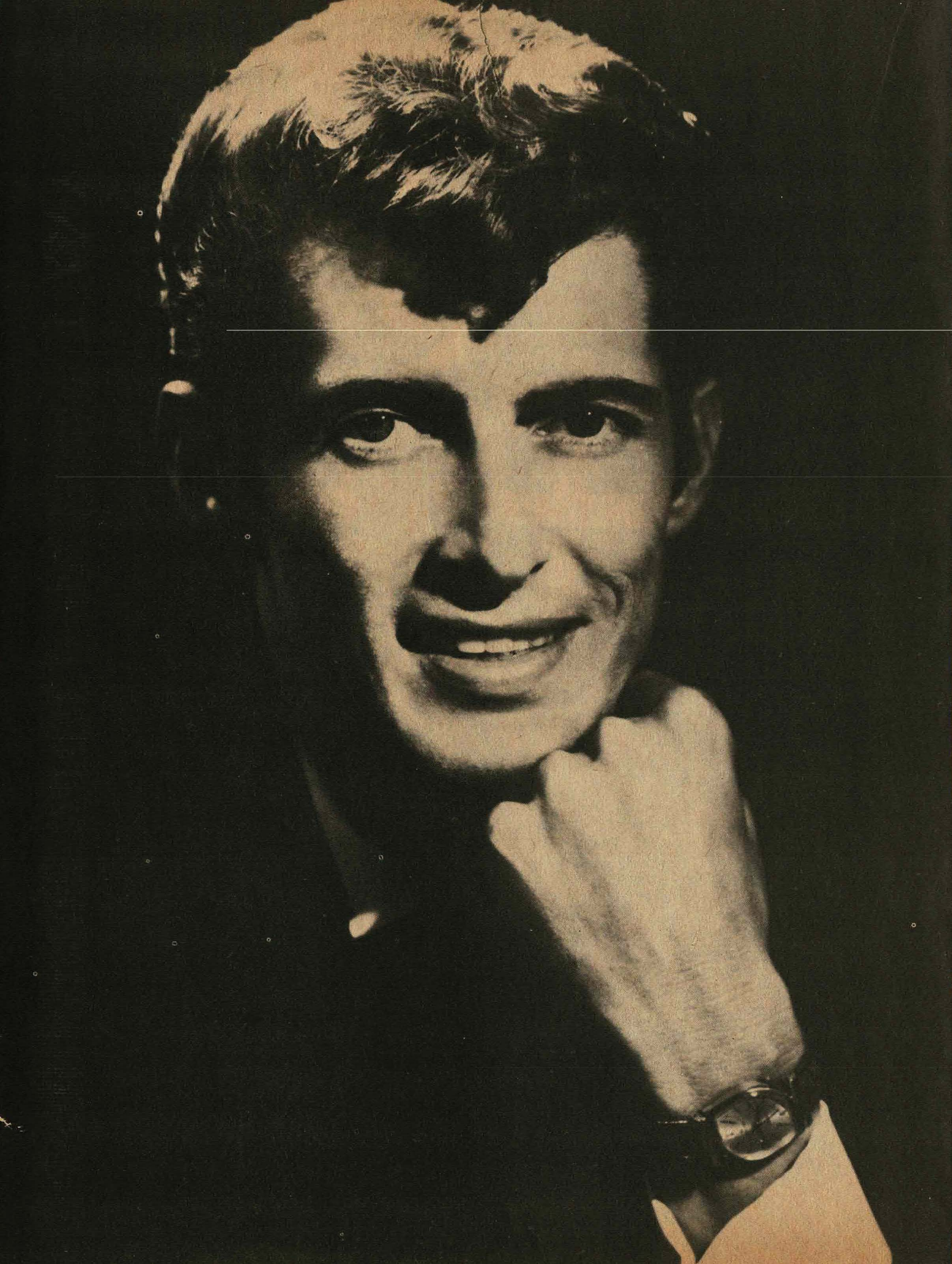
Proving his intuitive sense of knowing what the public wants, Jack continued to score big with his single and LP entitled "Baby, Ain't That Love." Included in the LP was his chart rendition of "Birmingham Blues."

Jack, who terms himself a "nos-

talgie type person," depicts this attitude in his soulful ballads. His happy personality penetrates through in his up-tempo material. This style is coupled with his adept writing in "When the Grass Grows Green Again," which he took from a story told to him by a former convict who found it impossible to adjust to outside life. These talents make him a highly sought after performer/composer.

Jack considers blue and green his favorite colors, steak his favorite food. He hopes to do more record producing in the future. A rugged, masculine looking person, his desire to do TV and film acting could well become a reality.

Big Jack Barlow's versatility is nothing but pure entertainment. He's a great singer and a beautiful song writer.



COUNTRY CLOSE-UP

DEL REEVES

■ A friend of Del's once said, "Let me tell you what kind of a person Del Reeves is. I was on a bus trip with Del recently when he played a big town in a spacious air-conditioned auditorium, giving the people a 40-minute show. The next night he played a small town in a cramped, little high-school auditorium which was as hot as an oven. He gave them an 80-minute show that had him completely exhausted. I have never seen a man give more of himself in one performance. 'Well,' I asked him, 'what gives Del?' and he said, 'Buddy, these people are from a poorer part of the country than the ones we played to last night, and, though they paid out the same amount of money, it means twice as much to them to part with it. So I felt I owed them twice as much performance.' Well, a guy like that is rare, but when it comes to Del Reeves, it's just par for the course."

Del has his roots in a poor farm in North Carolina (near a town called Sparta), and though he jokes about it ("I'm the only boy in a family of 11 kids, and the hand-me-downs I had to wear were really something."), the sight of poverty is not something he can easily shake off.

Del's true claim to fame has always been his comic act. Anyone who has seen him will attest to his imaginative sense of humor. He can make joke after joke, cutting down everyone who works with him, his friends, and all the big stars of today. Del's jokes are all biting, but he has a great sense of balance and taste. He can say cutting things about people all night long, but never really offend anyone. As a matter of fact, he is everyone's favorite personality; he's loved by them all.

Del's act is a well-polished one, certainly one of a true professional's. He can joke around, lead into a song, or even move an audience to a very sombre, serious mood. By the time Del decides to leave the stage, you can be sure everyone in the audience has got his money's worth. Del has one more talent. That is his ability to impersonate. He can perform an entire evening just acting out other personalities. Del's recent Grand Ole Opry appearance was a prime example of this brilliance. It was one of those nights when he felt like doing the whole works. Wearing a bright purple outfit, Del bounded on stage, ran through a couple of fast-moving numbers, and received a big applause. Then he shifted

into high gear with his imitations, and this is where Del Reeves leaves the other entertainers in the dust. Jimmy Dickens, Walter Brennan, Roy Acuff, were a few of the openers. After a short break, he came back out on stage and tore the house down with an unbelievable impersonation of Jerry Lee Lewis and his pounding piano. By now the entire Opry cast and everyone else backstage was gathered as close as possible, all going as wild as the fans. After he had Jerry Leed their pants off, he stood up and took a bow, but they wouldn't let him quit. Another encore! He sat down to some more "Whole Lot of Shakin' Going On" and the only thing shaking more than Del were the walls of the Ryman auditorium. He had brought Mardi Gras to Nashville and put it indoors. What a show!—With out a doubt, Del was the biggest thing the whole night.

Del's joking and performing didn't quit until he had reached his apartment. People wouldn't leave him alone. Hundreds of fans swarmed his dressing room. They were picking at his clothes, asking for autographes, asking him a million questions. One fan kiddingly asked, "Hey Del, would you tell my wife that joke you told me the other day?" Del quickly replied, "Which one? I don't know but 1,500!"

Like every clown, Del has a very serious and sensitive side. Clowns have that very talented way of making everyone forget all worries and just laugh. Well, Del realizes that he hides his serious side, and it often bothers him that people only think of him as a funny man. Like many others, he has seen poverty, felt what it's like to be hungry, and has experienced rejection and failure. Del is truly a talented singer and songwriter. He has made recordings of songs that are classics in all senses of the word. "Be Quiet," and "He Stands Real Tall" are two beautiful ballads, and "The Only Girl I Can't Forget" was a chart rider for 17 weeks. In addition to singing, Del also has a small acting career, having been in films such as "Second Fiddle to a Steel Guitar," "Forty Acre Fued," "Gold Guitar," and upcoming "Whisky's Renegade."

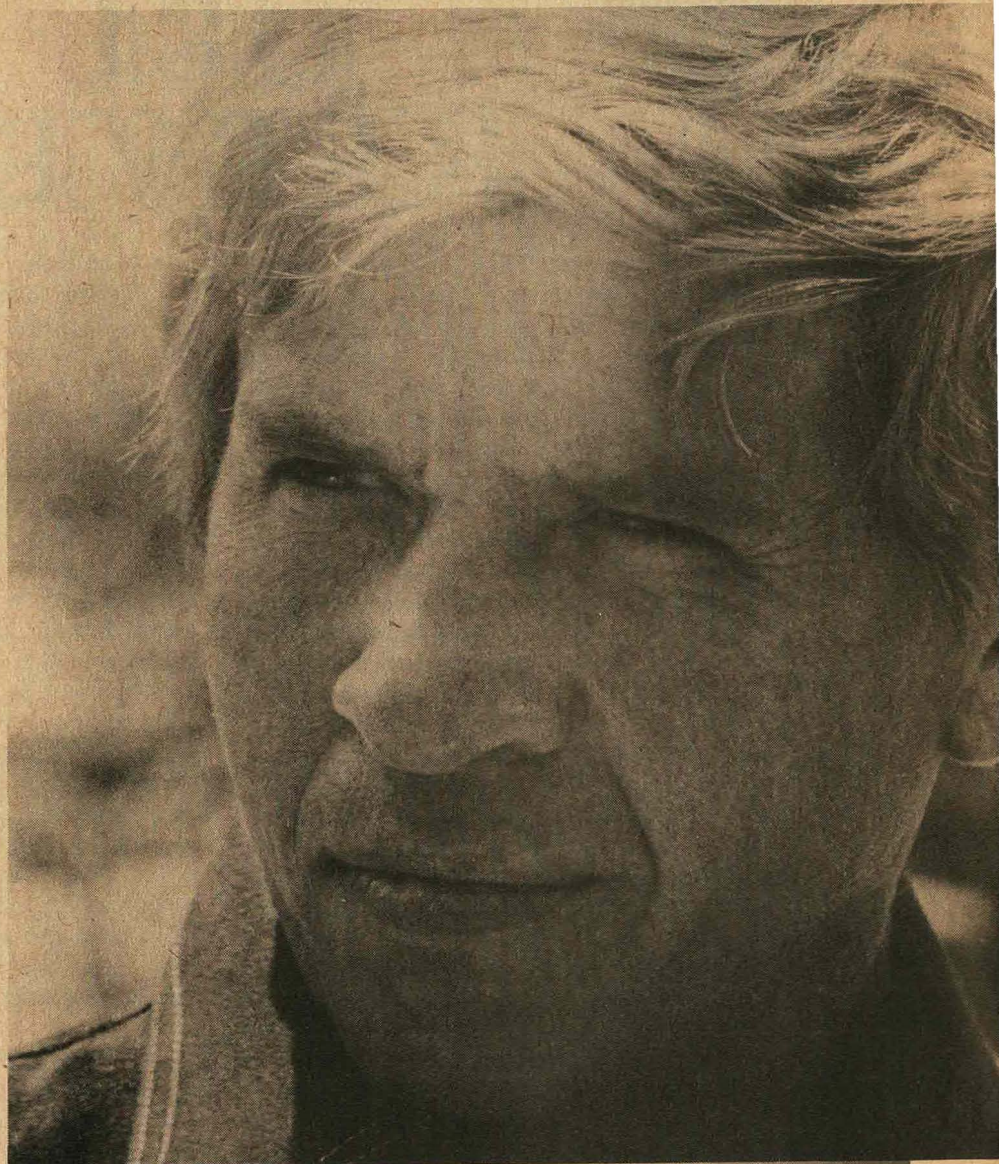
When this native Spartan has a free moment, he can be found in Madison, Tennessee, a suburb of Nashville, with his wife Ellen and their two daughters.

BUCK OWENS: HIS

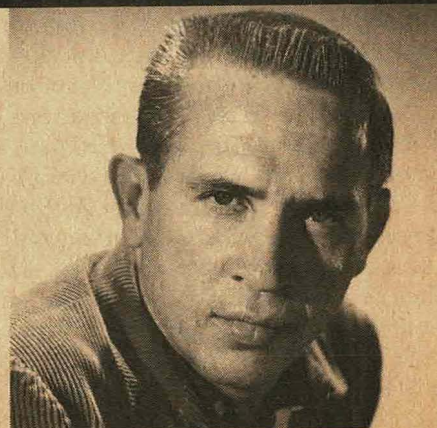
■ "Nashville is Bakersfield East." If Buck Owens was only one of country music's top entertainers, that might be an impossible claim. But because he is also a consummate business man, and because he lives and works in Bakersfield, directing a veritable empire of offices located in his elegant new studios, Buck is well on his way to making the Southern California city a national center of country music. He also runs a talent agency there, OMAC Artists. Under the aegis of Buck Owens Enterprises, he directs a personal management company for country artists; a recording company, Blue Book Records; a music publishing company, Blue Book Music; four radio stations; a travel agency; a television production company which produces the "Buck Owens Ranch Show," syndicated in more than 70 cities; wheat, cattle and almond ranches; and, of course, his elaborate new studios, complete with Moog Synthesizer, where he produces acts for Capitol, as well as for MGM and Columbia Records.

An impressive achievement for anybody, but particularly for a kid with memories that reach all the way back to the Texas badlands, and only a ninth-grade education. Buck was born in Sherman, Texas, the son of a sharecropper. When he was nine, the family moved to Mesa, Arizona. It was a hard life, and Buck quit school when he was 13 to go to work harvesting crops and hauling produce.

A self-taught guitarist, Buck managed to get himself on a nightly radio show in Mesa when he was only 16. When he was 17, he married. At 18, he was a father. At the age of 20, Buck packed up his family and moved to Bakersfield—he had a couple of uncles living there, both of whom were musicians, and both of whom said the opportunities were good.



**FOR THE MAN BEHIND THE
MYTH, THERE ARE MANY YEARS OF
HARD WORK AND
TROUBLED TIMES TO BE
REMEMBERED**



Time changes many things, including Buck—now (top) and then (above).

FAVORITE MEMORIES

Buck landed his first job in Bakersfield at a little wayside bar, called the Blackboard Club, where he played lead guitar. It was at this dinky bar, that the young Buck first started singing. "The singer didn't make it one night and the owner said that if I wanted my job, I'd start singing . . . real fast. I sang". And he kept on singing country vocals in the style of the times. Audiences began sitting up and taking notice. Who was this young man, anyway? His straw blonde hair, and bright hazel eyes began to bewitch young and old alike. Eventually, the band at the club moved on to other territory to play rhythm and blues, but Buck, having other ideas, left the fickle group and took Ferlin Husky's place in Tommy Collin's band. His reputation grew; he started working on recording sessions in Hollywood as a guitar accompanist for artists such as Wanda Jackson, Faron Young and Sonny James.

Despite Buck's growing popularity, his first years in Bakersfield proved to be difficult. Buck's marriage with the lovely Bonnie Owens ended in a painful divorce in the early fifties, and what with his broken heart and hungry family, regular gigs were hard to come by. But on March 1, 1957, Buck signed a contract with Capitol . . . hardly instant success, but with hard work, which Buck was not afraid of, and good promotion, Buck worked his way up the slippery ladder of popularity.

Early in 1960, Buck met Don Rich, a lead guitarist who doubled with close harmony on vocals, and a couple of years later he helped form the all-time great back-up group, the Buckaroos. Then, in 1963, Buck went straight to the top. His recording of "Act Naturally," which he also published, became a number one hit, and a recording of it by the Beatles

made the song an international success.

One memory that Buck really cherishes was the time back in 1968 when he played at the White House by special invitation of President Johnson. He remembers a warm handshake and sincere smile and was relieved to discover that the President of the United States was a man much like himself.

I'm sure we've all seen Buck on **Hee-Haw** by now, and I'll bet everyone agrees that Buck has helped make **Hee-Haw** the knee-slapping, bust-a-gut show that it is. On the other hand, Buck feels that **Hee-Haw** has been a great help to him, although he actually spends very little time on the show, perhaps a week or ten days in Nashville to tape segments.

Today Buck's schedule is filled with his multiple business enterprises, with his two television shows, with tours and personal appearances (he is as popular abroad as he is in the United States), and with frequent recording sessions, both as an artist and as a producer. But what about his adoring family? When do they get to see him? Amazing as it seems, he finds time for them too, for his wife Phyliss, his three younger children: Jack, Johnny and Terry and for Buddy and Mike, the two sons from his first marriage.

As a musician, Buck is capable of growing with the form he is so popular in. As country music borrows from other fields, as it goes through changes, so does Buck. Lately he started using the Blossoms, a Los Angeles vocal group, for chorale back-up on his sessions, giving a blending of Black gospel to his own purely country sound. But whatever changes Buck makes in his music, he never forgets that country music is the music of the people, and that is who Buck is singing for.

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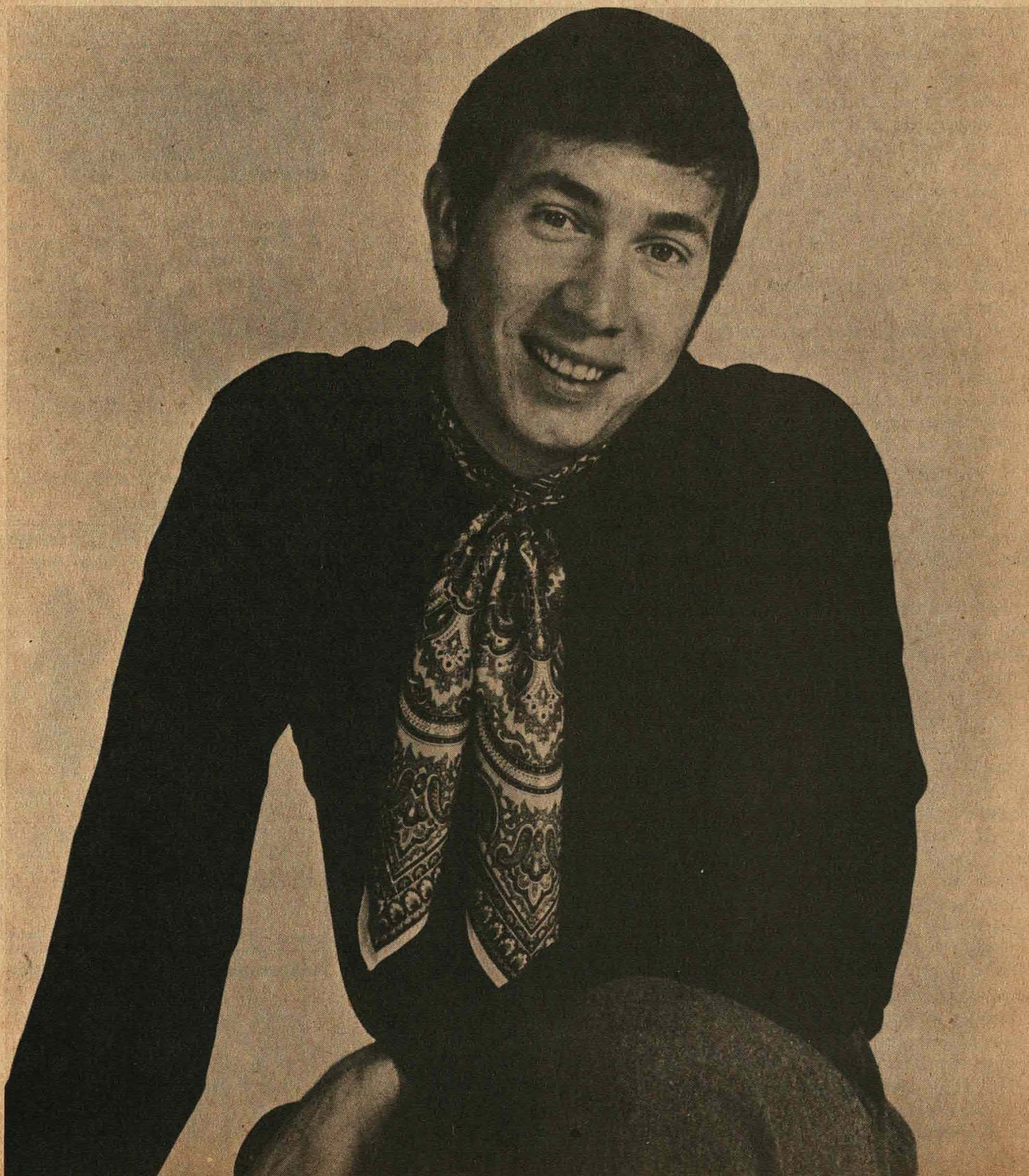
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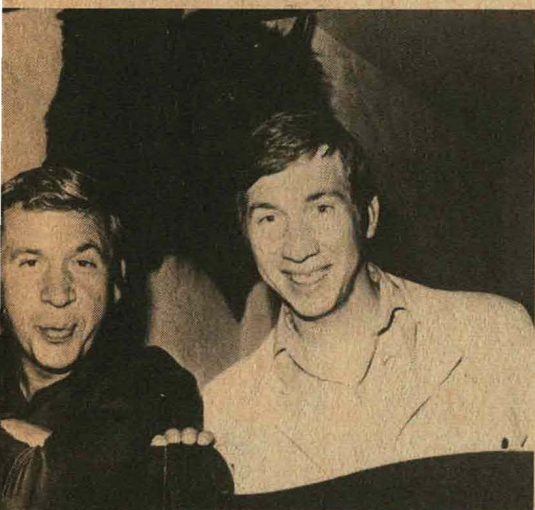
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Buddy Allen: Son Of A Singer-Man



**BEING BORN THE SON OF BUCK AND BONNIE OWENS
WASN'T THE EASIEST THING IN THE WORLD FOR
A KID WHO CALLS HIMSELF BUDDY ALLEN
AND IS A STAR IN HIS OWN RIGHT**



Dad, Buck Owens, is mighty proud Buddy made it on his own.

■ For those of you who know Buddy and recognize his voice and songs, you can understand how truly difficult it has been for him to establish himself as a self-made C&W singer. This is probably Buddy's greatest desire, and he is doing everything within his power to achieve it.

For those of you who are not familiar with Buddy Alan, his difficulty will make more sense to you once you know that he is really Buddy Owens, son of Buck and Bonnie Owens. With a father like Buck, it's extremely hard for him to become a star in his own right.

Ever since Buck began making it big in the early fifties, Buddy has been identified by the public as Buck Owens' son. This identity followed Buddy through the six-

ties, but all the time Buddy was growing and attempting to become a singer and writer of some recognition in his own right.

Buddy has always been around music, and at an early age discovered that he had a great deal of talent. He has taken many lessons from the greats of the business; he comments now that he is most influenced by his father and Merle Haggard. Buddy is a bonafide writer and singer for the Buck Owens enterprises, and has cut two albums. Much can be said for these albums, since he insisted that they be cut just the way he wanted them to be. This was risky. Even the best pros permit others to change things, but Buddy was determined to prove that he could be a star without help. The albums are **Wild, Free and 21** and **A Whole Lot of Something**. These albums met with a fair amount of success, and Buddy is relatively satisfied with the results. He is even more pleased though with some singles he cut which made the top charts. One in particular was a duet that he sang with his father.

Buddy is now 23 and seems to have a mature and realistic attitude towards his career. He still has a great deal of pride in his own talent, but he believes that singing and writing are more important to him and the vast number of C&W fans, than his own pride in having absolute individuality. Now that he is somewhat of an established singer and writer, he has an obligation to continue

writing. "Besides," comments Buddy, "I love my father dearly, and have the greatest respect for him as a singer/writer as well as for his judgements in business and human affairs. He is a very well-balanced and fair person." Buddy feels it is no "sell-out" to sing and write with and for his father. As a matter of fact, he is quite proud to be able to work for such a man as Buck Owens.

Buck and Buddy are starting to make a great many appearances as a father-son team. They sing top chart tunes together, work TV shows together, and travel for both entertainment and business together. Buddy says, "After all, we may just become best of friends too!"

Possibly the largest Buck Owens/Buddy Alan venture to date is their cooperative joint business deal in Oslo, Sweden. There, they have built a large C&W restaurant/shopping center. Everything is done in the Old West style, and the food is typical American steaks and potatoes. In addition to the restaurant, they have built a big music hall that caters to C&W singers and writers. Buck and Buddy performed there on opening night, and brought the house down.

Buddy has a very busy life at the studio and with his business ventures, yet he claims that at this point his main interest in life is his wife and infant son. As young as he may be, he is amazingly busy with his career. This often bothers him because he really loves to spend time with his family. His wife Jane is a beautiful girl, who adores him and is very glad to see him getting along so well with Buck. She hopes and now believes that since Buddy is slightly more settled and has "found himself" a bit in the business, he will be able to spend a lot more time with her and their child. They live with his family in Bakersfield, a long way from Tempe, Arizona, where he was born in March of 1948. That's right, March 1948; Buddy is only 23 years old. After all he has gone through, and as much as he has accomplished we must admit that Buddy is pretty remarkable in his own right. Buddy Alan is definitely a personality and talent to watch for in the future!

PART II

LAST MONTH WE GAVE
YOU A GLIMPSE
BEHIND ONE
OF THE MOST
FASCINATING AND
UNPREDICTABLE
YOUNG STARS ON THE
COUNTRY MUSIC
SCENE. HERE ARE SOME
MORE FACTS
YOU MIGHT LIKE
TO KNOW



Bobbie's short-lived marriage to gambling king William Harrah, 58, caused headlines.

■ Much has happened to Bobby Gentry since "Ode to Billie Joe" made her a top country music star. Where has she gone professionally since that time? What turns has her love-life taken? What are her present ambitions? A recent interview revealed some answers.

Bobby said that so far she hasn't worried much about the Joan Weber Flash-In-The-Pan Syndrome. Joan Weber was the singer who recorded the smash

hit, "Let Me Go, Lover" in the mid-fifties, and then faded into oblivion. Granted, Bobbie has not recorded recently anything that even comes close to "Ode to Billie Joe," and many fans didn't hear much of her in 1968, but she says that's because she was busy appearing at state fairs and hotels, singing at the San Remo Song Festival, and working on a screenplay based on "Ode to Billie Joe," a project handled by her production company, Gentry, Ltd.

THE REAL BOBBIE GENTRY- WHAT SHE'S REALLY LIKE

Glen Campbell is one of Bobbie's dearest friends in showbiz. They have recorded and appeared together frequently.



"After 'Billie Joe,' she said, "I was faced with the decision of whether to capitalize on the 3,000,000 records it sold by writing follow-ups that sounded the same. I decided not to. I felt I had made my contact with 'Billie Joe.' I'm a writer with a writer's integrity, and I didn't want to follow it up with parodies. I had three fairly successful singles in 'Louisiana Man,' 'Okelona River Bottom Band' and 'Fancy.' 'Fancy' is one of my latest songs and goes a number of steps

further in its declaration of what life is really about. This song, of which I am proudest since 'Billie Joe,' declares in no uncertain terms that we have to remember that each day is the first day of the rest of our lives, and we had better do the best we can to make it count, no matter how difficult the choices might be. But nothing had the impact of 'Billie Joe.'"

She was asked what she best likes to do these days. "Television," she answered, sitting Geisha-style on a pillow on the floor of her Plaza Hotel suite while her Yorkshire terrier, Billie Joe, licked her leg. "If you're a performer who likes to do a lot of things, it's the best field for you. You can get involved with everything—from writing to set design to choreography."

Bobbie got up off her pillow to pour some coffee from a silver room-service cart. Her long brown hair ("It's all mine except for a tiny hairpiece in back") is swept back casually from her forehead, and her coffee-colored eyes are fringed with what must be the longest pair of fur eyelashes ever made. Her narrow face has a sensual feline quality and its features are all model perfect, except for a rather prominent nose. She is slender, almost skinny.

As for her love-life, it seems that in addition to charming the audiences at the big clubs in Vegas, Bobbie also charmed the wealthy owner of Harrah's Club—Mr. Harrah himself. They were often seen talking together after her shows, but no one suspected that the then 27-year-old Bobbie and the 65-year-old Harrah would ever develop a romance. However, the unexpected happened, and they were wed in late 1969. Bobbie carried on with her career, not seeing much of Harrah, and then, almost as suddenly as they were married, they were divorced. No one knows exactly what went on between them, because no one ever knew what a rising young star like Bobbie saw in Harrah other than his obvious tenderness toward her. Was it protection from the world she sought? No man could ever do that—not even William Harrah!

And then, of course, there's her tie with Glen Campbell, still another relationship friends and admirers of Bobbie Gentry have never been able to understand.

"There's certainly a bond between Glen and me," Bobbie said. "Of course, we've been friends for a long time."

Indeed, the hits they've cut together ever since the day they won Grammy awards as the top male and female performers have been very successful. As for any romantic feeling between the two, it is extremely doubtful. "Glen is a married man," a close friend recently confided. "He and Bobbie Gentry have been through a lot together—traveling, taping shows, cutting records—but a romance they haven't had! That doesn't mean that they don't love each other; I'm sure they have great affection for one another, but their feelings are not of a romantic nature."

And still the rumors continue. Somewhere in the haze of talk there's a talented young music star trying to put her life in order. For more on Bobbie Gentry, read our next issue.

■ "He's not exclusively pop, not exclusively country, not exclusively a singer, not exclusively a comic, but a talent that is universal. Any way you mix up the ingredients, the batter still comes out the same—ROGER MILLER." This description of the man who began his fabulous career as a broke songwriter appears on the liner of Miller's latest album and was written by one of today's top male vocalists—Andy Williams.

Although young, Miller already is the composer and singer of such smash numbers as "King of the Road," "Chug-A-Lug," "Dang Me," "Doo-Wach-A-Doo," "In The Summertime," and the list goes on and on.

Roger has been composing, arranging and singing for years—despite the fact that he never took a single music lesson and can't read a note. He is said to be one of the few musicians to have attained sufficient prominence in recent times to hold his own in

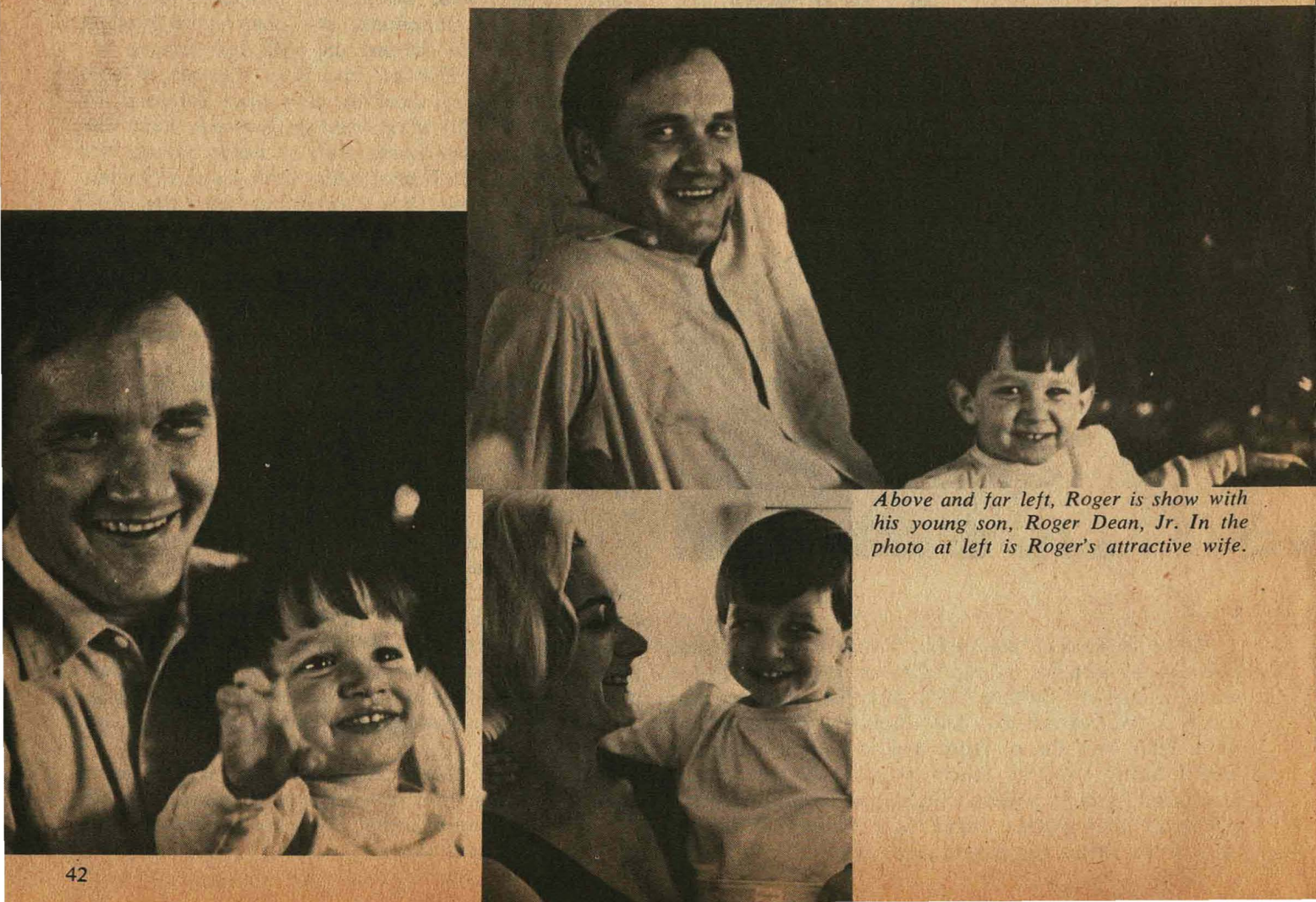
sales with such artists as the Kingston Trio.

His ballads and blues—written, arranged and sung by him—won so many Grammys at the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences awards ceremony that he had to have help carrying them off the stage. The thunderous applause was for "Best Country and Western Album," "Best Country and Western Vocal Performance, Male," "Best Country and Western Song" and "Best Country and Western Artist."

His infectious laugh and twinkling eyes, as well as his sly and formidable wit, are the things most noticeable to anyone who meets and talks with Roger Miller. Though his humor is sudden and sharp, Miller is not a wisecracker. He aims his verbal barbs at himself rather than at other people, even when the opportune moment boldly presents itself. Wit is usually a sign of an intelligent and sensitive mind, and Roger certainly has both of these qualities.

Roger Miller: How He Came

FROM SONGWRITING TO HOTEL CHAINS, ROGER MILLER IS DEFINITELY ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST TALENTS IN THE FIELD OF COUNTRY-WESTERN MUSIC—IF HE'S EVEN IN THAT FIELD AT ALL. YOU DECIDE FOR YOURSELF



Above and far left, Roger is shown with his young son, Roger Dean, Jr. In the photo at left is Roger's attractive wife.

To Be King Of The Road



Roger Miller was born in Fort Worth, Texas on January 2, 1936. From the age of three he was raised on a farm in Erik, Oklahoma, which he considers his hometown. There he lived with an uncle after his own family was broken up by death and illness. Miller made himself proficient on the fiddle and guitar; he entered every talent contest he could find, and won most of them. He wrote his first song at the age of six, and sang it for his classmates in a one-room schoolhouse in Oklahoma.

A "grade school drop-out" by his own admission (he left school after the eighth grade), he continued his talent show spree and then served a three-year stint in the Army (Korean service). After that he headed for Nashville, Tennessee, the capital of country music.

Instead of a music job, Miller's first employment in Nashville was as a hotel bellhop, but soon thereafter he met Ray Price and managed to land a job with his traveling show. It wasn't long before country musicdom was introduced to Miller's "Invitation to the Blues," and thus began a phenomenal career that today has many famous singers warbling Roger Miller hits.

To be a composer and arranger wasn't enough

for the boyish-looking, sleepy-talking Miller. He also wanted to be a singer—of his own songs—and he became just that, and more.

A guest appearance on Johnny Carson's **Tonight Show** perhaps gave Roger's career its biggest push. Suddenly he was being invited—for pay—to play, sing and generally "cut up" on a number of national television programs. Roger has appeared on the **Andy Williams Show**, the **Dean Martin Show**, Bob Hope TV specials, **Hollywood Palace**, and many others. He says he plans to tickle the funnybone of television and live audiences, as well as those who buy his recordings, for "just as long as they want me."

Asked what he does when he finishes a song, Roger says: "Pray. Sit back and hope it'll be good. Hope it wasn't the result of an attack of clunk-head. I got me a boxful of songs. Some of them have a little philosophy, some of them are just, uh, songs, like 'Chug-a-lug,' that just came from a true experience which wasn't the happiest of my life." It appears that the unhappy days of his life are over.

"All I really want," Roger Miller has said, "is to be a phenomenal entertainer."

He is already that.

■ Roy Clark is just about the most popular up and coming success in the country-western music business. Rightly so, for he is undoubtedly a very talented and versatile man. Roy has one problem (a problem that he has, incidentally, turned into an asset), and that is his weight.

Roy is the first to joke about his fatness. He has a need to acknowledge his weight problem publicly, but he is by no means ashamed. He is a big, strong man and also very good-looking, but he feels his weight makes others feel awkward. He believes that by bringing the issue out in the open and making people laugh about it, he has relieved tension — both his own and that of his audience. But Roy's obesity is no longer a laughing matter. Because of it he has run into some heart problems, and has been spending some time in the hospital.

Roy doesn't like hospitals, but he realizes that heart problems are serious. He has been warned about the medical problems of an overweight condition and is thinking about serious dieting. Diets are a real hassle, but heart attacks and being bed-ridden are even worse.

Another of Roy's worries is his career—how his condition will affect his ability to work. Having reached stardom only in the last year or so, Roy is very disappointed at the thought of having to ease up. He is a strong-willed man (and has been, he says, ever since childhood). He is the type of man who would be very tempted not to heed the warning of his doctor, but go right ahead with his work at full speed.

Roy's trouble began one Tuesday night when **Hee Haw** held a press conference and threw a party for the cast and crew. Roy was taken to the hospital the next morning, but was right back at

the studio filming more shows the next day.

There are no two ways about it; Roy is a star and he doesn't intend to let anything interfere with his staying that way. He says he feels as good as he ever has, despite the heart setback, and he is going ahead as scheduled. As scheduled means full steam ahead. He's going to continue filming **Hee Haw**, continue making live appearances, continue writing and singing just as many hit songs as he can, continue with his comedy acts, his TV guest appearances and his active family life. He vows to keep a close watch on his heart and to make a sincere effort to reduce his weight, but he sure ain't gonna slow things down!

Just to prove his fitness, Roy released a list of shows that he has done and intends to do. The list contains over thirty different major TV guest appearances, including the **Beverly Hillbillies**, Dick Clark's **American Bandstand**, the **Tennessee Ernie Ford Show**, the **Jimmy Dean Show**, **Swingin' Country**, the **Jackie Gleason Show**, the **Merv Griffin Show**, **Shebang, Shivarree**, **WGN Barndance**, **Midwest Hayride**, **American Swingaround**, the **Steve Allen Show** and **Melody Ranch**.

In addition to his many TV appearances (not to mention **Hee Haw**, on which he stars every week), Roy plans to do a lot of touring in the near future. He will show up at the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo; the state fairs of Minnesota, Arizona, Texas and New Mexico; Harrah's at Lake Tahoe and Reno; Top Hat in Windsor,

Ontario; Holliday House in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and at the Lagoon in Salt Lake City. Roy has been to all of these places at one time or another and he loves them tremendously.

The one thing Roy looks forward to more than anything else in his professional life is doing his comedy acts. When he rolls his eyes and puffs his fat cheeks, no one can avoid laughing. He has a tremendous sense of humor, and a devilish but loveable way of teasing people. His old grammar school teacher remembers Roy as the little rascal who never did anything she asked him to do, but was bright and quick as a whip. He could do things better than anyone else around; he just looked a bit funny doing them.

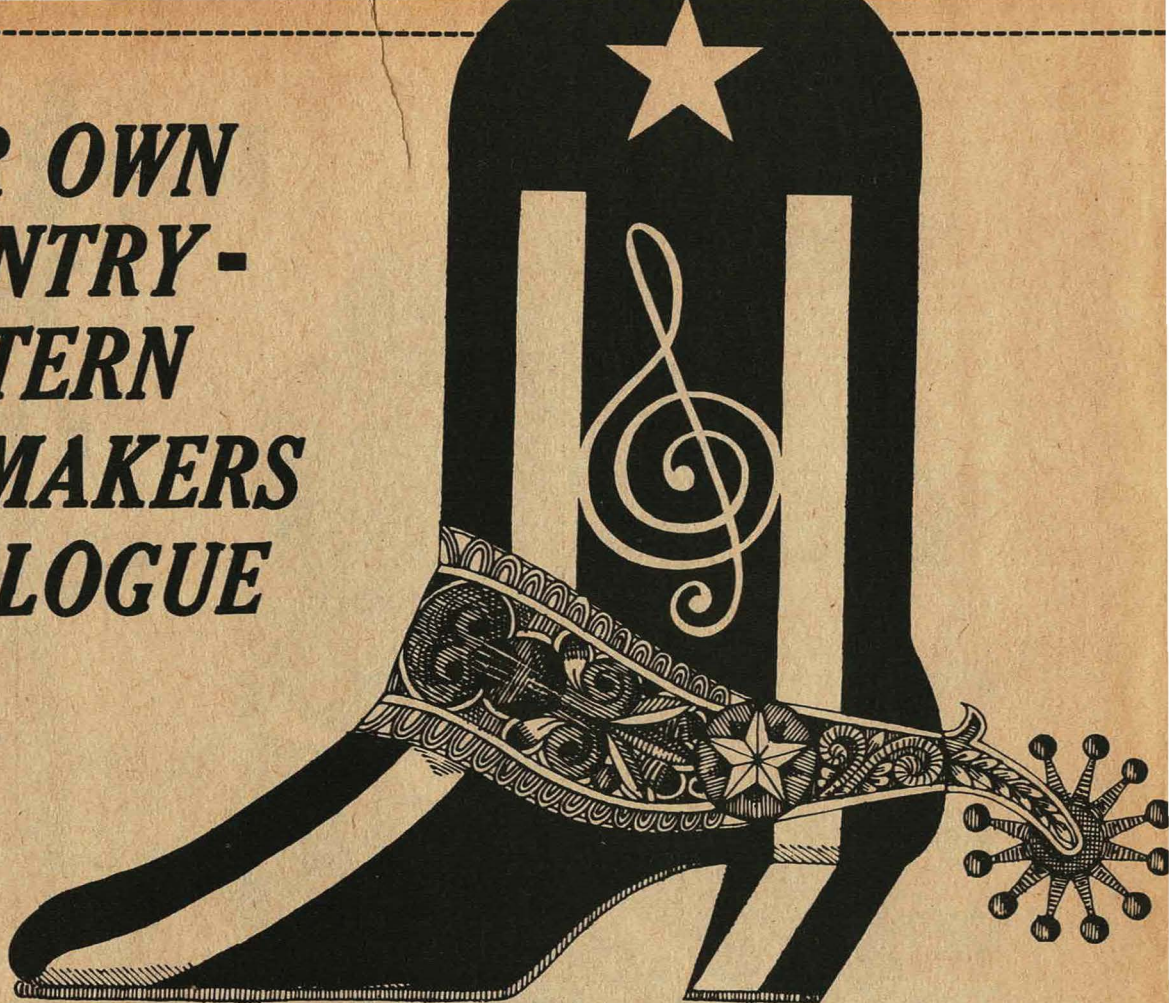
Roy Clark is a born comic, a fine musician, and a man with an apparently boundless enthusiasm for living and doing. But his many friends in Nashville and all over the country are hoping he'll follow his doctor's advice. Nobody who knows him wants Roy Clark to jeopardize his health any further. ●



Roy Clark Takin' Things Slower?

ALTHOUGH HE'S BACK TAPING *HEE HAW*,
THE FACT IS ROY CLARK
HAS BEEN ADVISED TO TAKE
THINGS A LOT EASIER—OR ELSE!

YOUR OWN COUNTRY- WESTERN HIT-MAKERS CATALOGUE



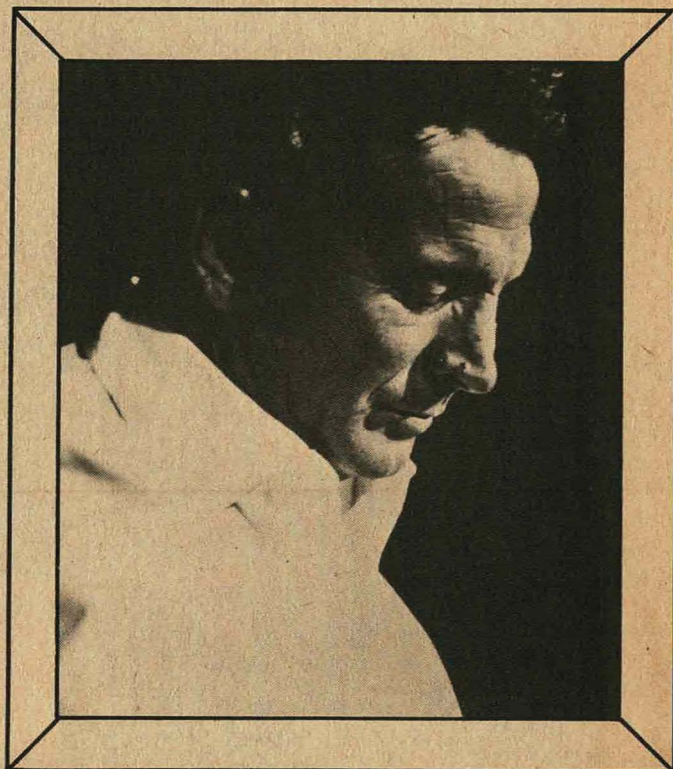
*Especially for our readers: country-music stars at a glance!
Yours to cut out and save, with many more to come.*

EVER heard of Simon Crum or Terry Preston? Well, if not, you probably have heard of Ferlin Husky, and you'll be amazed to know that they're all the same person.

The real name, the one that he was born with, is Ferlin Husky. The others were all stage names that Ferlin adopted years back in order to help his career. He thought that the name Ferlin Husky sounded too made-up. Terry Preston was Ferlin's first stage name and he used it when he got his first big break with Cliffie Stone. Stone was Tennessee Ford's manager at the time, and through him Terry cut the hit, "A Dear John Letter," a duet sung with Jean Shepard.

About the same time Ferlin started working as a disc jockey in Bakersfield, California, this time as Simon Crum. Simon was an easy-going sort of bumbler who beguiled and amused the radio audience to such an extent that Capitol recorded Simon as well as Terry. But, Simon was an entirely different character than Terry even though they are both really Ferlin!

About 1953, Ferlin began using his own name. When singer Hank Williams was killed in an automobile accident, Ferlin wrote "Hank's Song" as a tribute to an artist whom he much admired. This song was sung officially by Ferlin Husky, and once and for all Terry Preston and Simon Crum were names of the past.

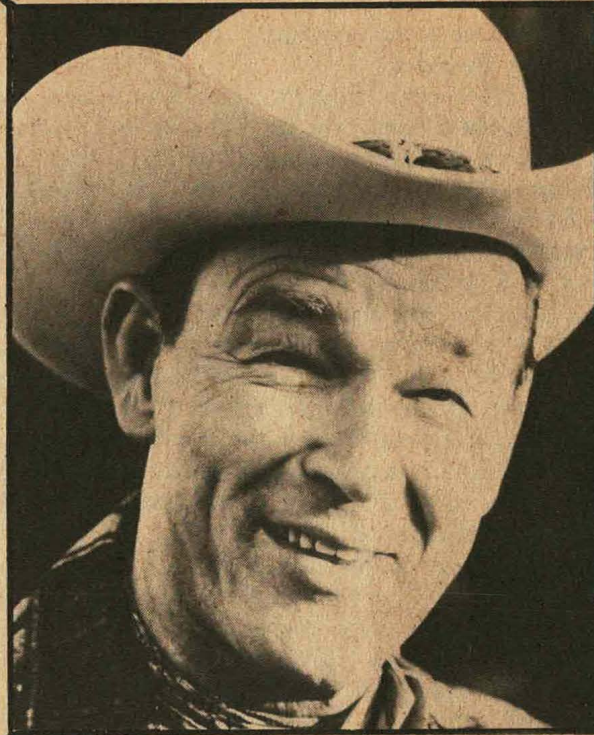


Ferlin Husky

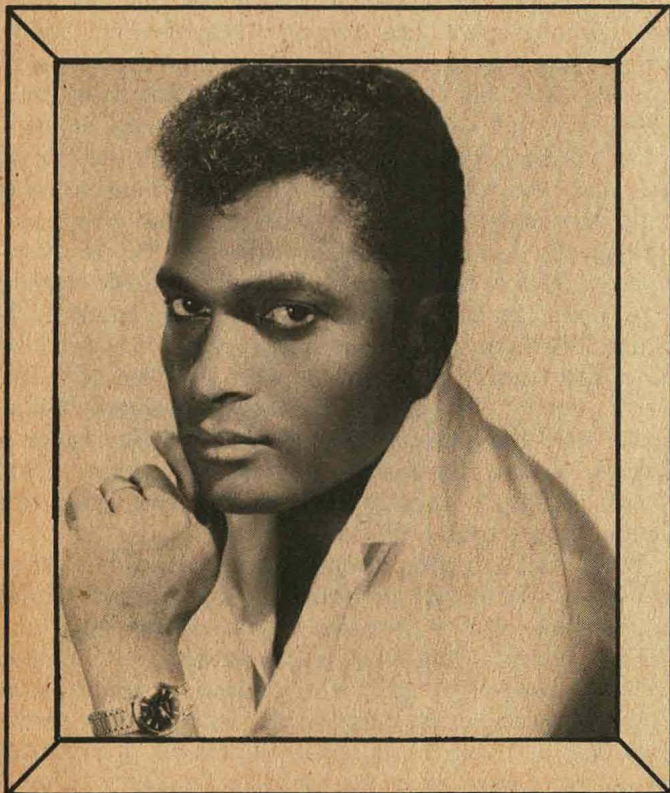
L EONARD SLYE—better known to his three generations of fans as Roy Rogers—has been a favorite of audiences since his early days as a member of The Sons of the Pioneers. He is a total entertainer, having starred in numerous films, immortalized countless songs, and collected honors at thousands of state fairs and rodeos. He recently extended his musical career even further by recording his first contemporary country album in Nashville (**The Country Side of Roy Rogers**), containing the hit single "Money Can't Buy Love."

Leonard was always interested in the guitar, and played consistently as a boy. His guitar learnin' proved to be a good investment, for once in California (his family had moved there from the Ohio hills), he got together with some friends and formed The Sons of the Pioneers, and the group got themselves a contract with a Hollywood radio station. However, just before things got rolling with the group, Leonard heard about a screen test for a cowboy star at Republic Pictures. He took the test and shortly thereafter a new star, Roy Rogers, appeared on the scene. All in all, Roy made 86 features for Republic, many of them with Dale Evans, another young star.

In 1947 Roy and Dale were married, and their names have been inseparable ever since. In addition to their many show business accomplishments, the Rogerses have done generous work for orphaned children of all nationalities, and they have raised a family of nine children, several of whom were adopted. Together for the past 25 years, Roy and Dale are still going strong.



Roy Rogers



Charley Pride

THE 1970 Billboard Trendsetter Award described Charley Pride as a man "whose unique talents as a singer, together with his innate feel of country music, pioneered in removing the color line from country music."

You've really made it when your peers begin honoring you like that. And recording artist Mac Wiseman is even singing about Charley; his current RCA single and new Victor album are both titled **Johnny's Cash and Charley's Pride**. And that's not all. The annual Music City News poll of the nation's country music disc jockeys named Charley the number one male artist of the year and declared his "All I Have to Offer You Is Me" the best country-western song of the year.

The year 1969 was a high point in the career of Charley Pride. In addition to the honors from both Billboard and the Music City News, Charley had all of his chart-topping RCA hits from the past few years assembled under one album cover for **The Best of Charley Pride**, which has brought in more than one million dollars from his fans. Early in March, 1970, Charley followed Elvis Presley into the Houston Astrodome for a successful three-day engagement.

Charley gained a permanent place in the field of country music when he made his first Opry appearance in January, 1967. He is the first black performer to be recognized as a major talent in the world of country-western music.

If you've ever seen the Johnny Cash Show—either "live" or on television—then you've undoubtedly also heard one of the finest acts on the music scene—the Statler Brothers.

The Statlers—two brothers, Harold and Don Reid, and two close friends, Lew DeWitt and Phil Balsley—are regulars on Cash's hour-long ABC-TV show.

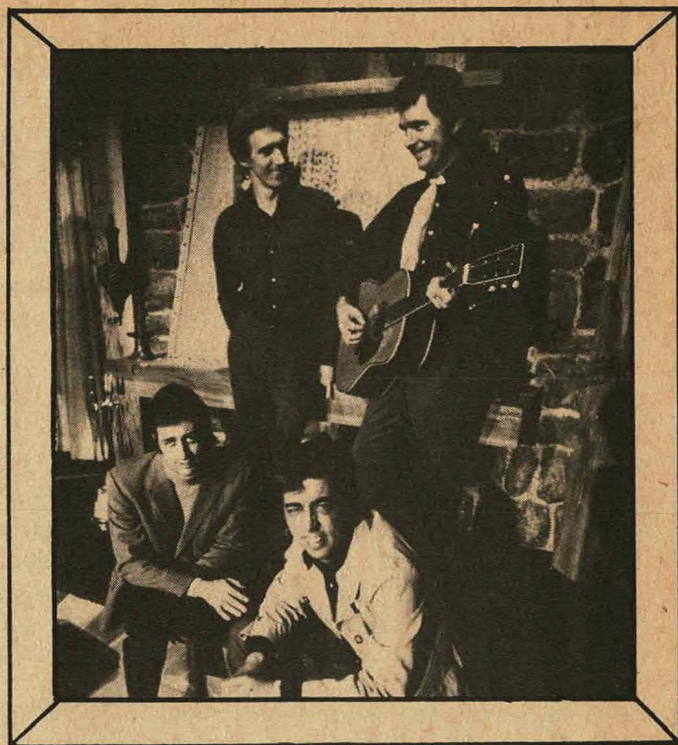
The group's affiliation with Johnny Cash goes back to 1964. It was at that time that Cash was scheduled to perform in Roanoke, Va., not far from the Statlers' homes in Saunton, Va.

"So I called the show's promoter, and told him we'd like to perform on the show," recalls Harold Reid. "But he told me that would be impossible because Cash booked his own talent.

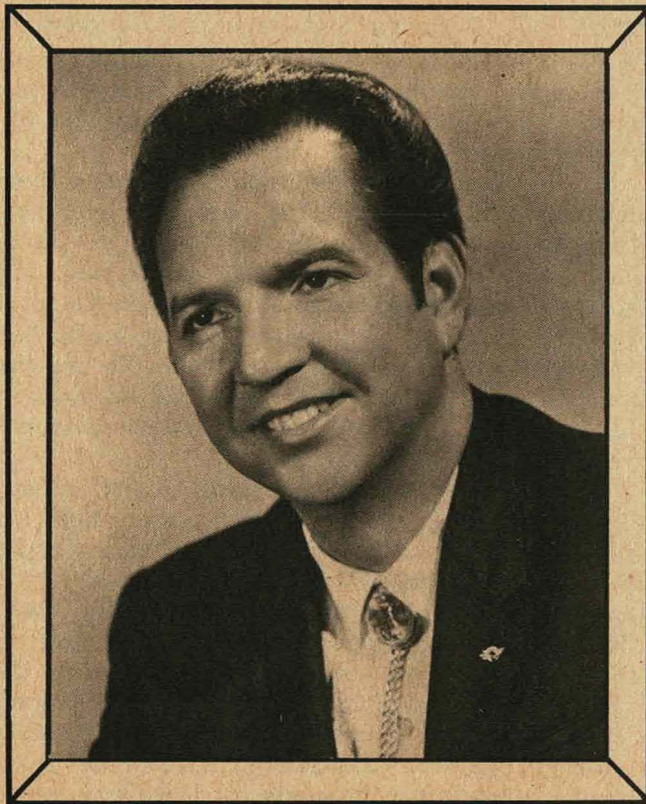
"That night I went backstage to introduce myself and told Cash I had a group I'd like him to hear. He asked us to come to a date in Berryville (Virginia) on Sunday and perform there."

So the Statlers opened the show that Sunday, under the watchful eyes of Cash. Following the 25-minute performance, the popular performer told the Statlers that he liked what he had heard.

About six months later, Harold Reid received a phone call from Cash, who asked him to bring the group to Canton, Ohio, the next night for a gig. "We did the show and have been with him ever since," says Harold.



The Statler Brothers



Hank Thompson

LOOK! Up in the air . . . it's a plane . . . and in that plane is Dot recording artist Hank Thompson, streaking across the skies in his twin-engine aircraft. This accomplished flier, singer, bandleader, songwriter, music publisher and top country music personality finds his craft handy for jumping from one booking to the next, or just puddle-jumping for fun.

For thirteen years Hank and his Brazos Valley Boys held the undisputed title as America's number one country-western band. Over the years he has been among the top ten recording stars in the country-western field in nearly all of the leading trade magazine polls. In 1968, following eighteen years with Capitol Records (where his copy sales exceeded the 30 million mark) Hank inked with Dot Records. His most recent LP's—**Hank Thompson Salutes Oklahoma** and **Instrumental Sound of Hank Thompson's Brazos Valley Boys**—along with his single, "But That's Alright," have continued to prove the tall Texan's commercial appeal.

What with writing, singing, flying and his other activities, Hank has a rigorous working schedule. But despite all the pressure of his career Hank remains a warm and sincere personality. Perhaps it was someone like Hank who caused a young man landing on an enemy-held beach with the first wave of attack in Korea to reportedly exclaim, "I can't die here; I've never seen the Grand Ole Opry." As it turned out, the young soldier got his wish!



Leona Williams

THE word togetherness just about sums up the attitude of one of Hickory Records' newest recording artists, Leona Williams. She grew up in that kind of atmosphere. She shares the same togetherness with her husband and children, and she seems to reach a closeness with her audiences that rivals the appeal of the most personable of entertainers. Why? Because Leona is one of those lucky people who has a warm and unpretentious yet magnetic personality.

"When you're one of twelve children, there's nothing else but togetherness," she has said. Leona was born in central Missouri, and no doubt one of her first experiences was music. "I still remember awakening and hearing Daddy playing the fiddle almost every morning in the kitchen while Mom was making biscuits for all her brood. Then a mandolin and banjo would join in and I'd get my guitar from under the bed. Jam sessions were practically a daily ritual at our house. We played for dances and gatherings, too. Each member of my family played an instrument and sang, so we had our own band.

Ron Williams, Leona's husband, has been a tremendous force in Leona's career since their marriage. Their sights were set on Nashville, the mecca of the country music field. Each new job was directed toward getting to Nashville and the Opry. Finally, after four years, they arrived and put Leona's talent to the test. She was discovered by Lonzo and Oscar; a recording session followed and the next day she was signed.

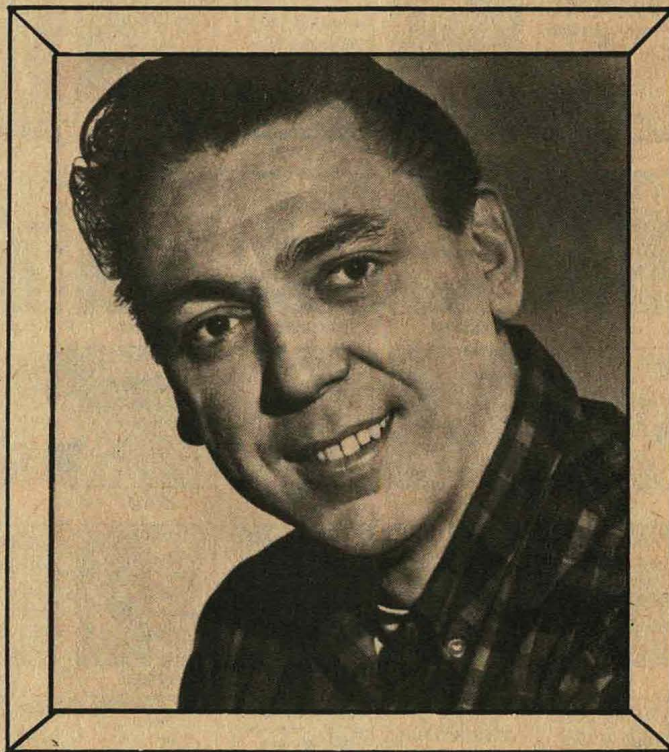
DAVE DUDLEY is described as one of the top entertainers in the business today, and rightly so. His gigantic hit, "Six Days on the Road," was one of the top sellers in 1963 and since has become a standard in both the country and pop fields. That song was followed by a long string of chart-toppers, including "Cowboy Boots," "Last Day in the Mines," "Mad," "What We're Fighting For," "Long Time Gone," "Please Let Me Prove," "One More Mile" and many others.

Dave began in show business both as a D.J. and with his own band, working clubs throughout the Midwest and gaining a wealth of experience performing for every type of audience. His warm, friendly personality has won for him many fans and friends both in and out of the entertainment field.

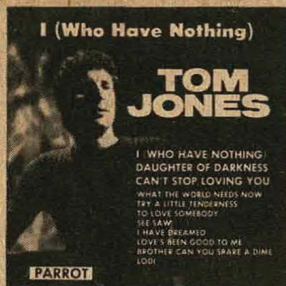
In 1960, the big six-foot one-inch, 190-pound singer sustained serious injuries when he was struck by an automobile. During his long convalescence, his musical future looked black until he made his roaring comeback with "Six Days on the Road," proving that his career was anything but ended.

With his band, the Roadrunners, Dave is on the road almost constantly with a solid schedule of personal appearances which take him around the world. He has performed on top TV shows and appears in the movies **Six Nights on the Road** and **Music City, U.S.A.**

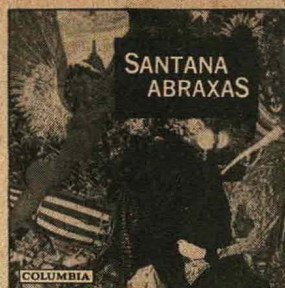
A native of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, Dave now lives in Nashville.



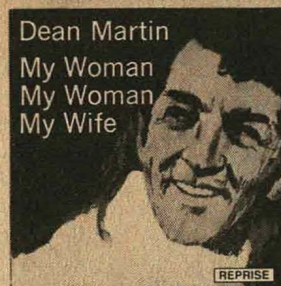
Dave Dudley



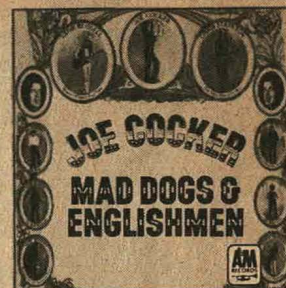
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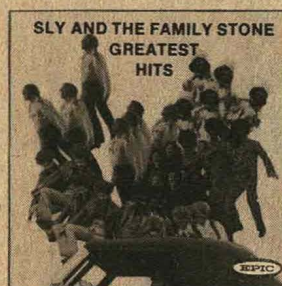
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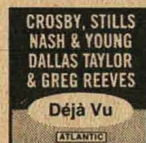


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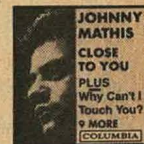
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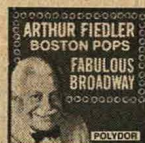
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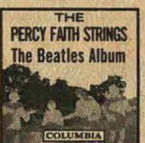
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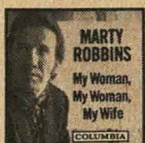
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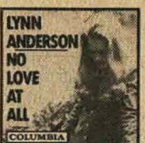
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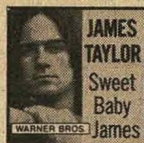
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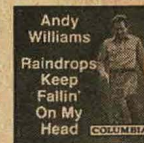
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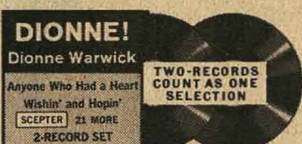
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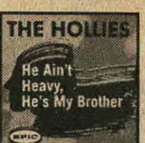
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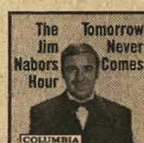
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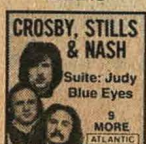
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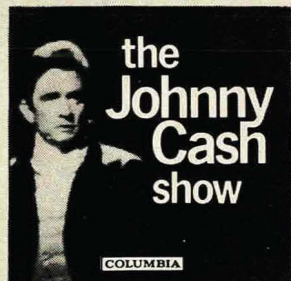
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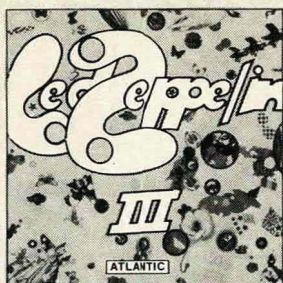
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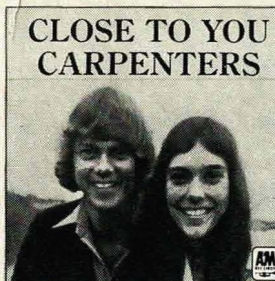
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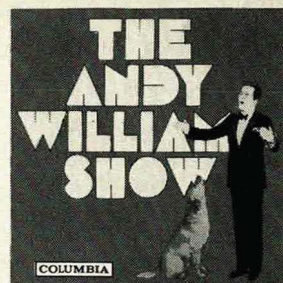
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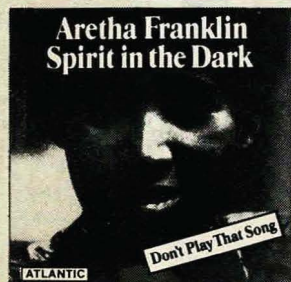
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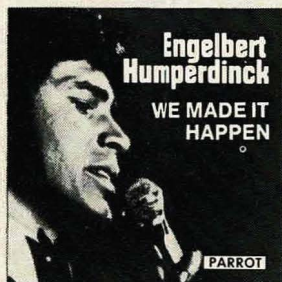
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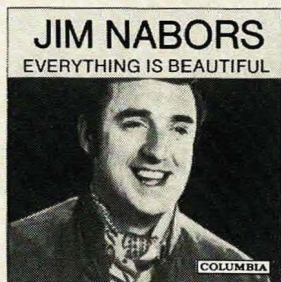
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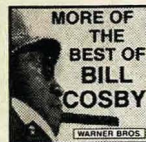
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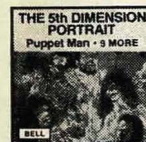
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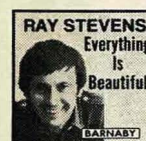
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RECORDS SENT ON CREDIT. Upon enrollment, the Club will open a charge account in your name... you pay for your records only after you have received them. They will be mailed and billed to you at the regular Club price of \$4.98 (Classical and occasional special albums somewhat higher), plus a mailing and handling charge.

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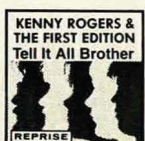
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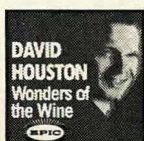
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N28-1/62

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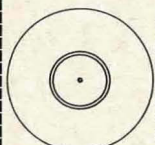
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